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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JONESVILLE, TEXAS POST OFFICE

2011 DEC 27 P 1:46

Jonesville is a small rural community in east Texas in Harrison County not far from the Louisiana border and situated along Texas Farm to Market Road 134 only a few miles north of Interstate 20 just about halfway between Shreveport, Louisiana and Marshall, Texas. The United States Post Office in Jonesville was established in 1847. John C. Dunn was named Jonesville's first postmaster on January 18, 1847. The very first postage stamp in the United States was issued in that same year. There has been a post office in Jonesville since that time. Jonesville had a post office before Elysian Fields (1848), Waskom (1850), Scottsville (1869), and Karnack (1898).

In the early days of the post office in Jonesville, the little village had a trading post and post office. Other businesses have opened through the years, but today only two of those earliest businesses in the community remain, an old fashioned general store and the post office. The general store (now named T. C. Lindsey & Co.) was started in 1847 as a trading post. In 1900, the store was named Smith & Lindsey. T. C. Lindsey married into the Vaughan family which currently owns and operates the store. For a while, the U. S. Post Office was housed in the general store. Emma Vaughan was postmaster from 1949 until she retired in 1985. While she was postmaster, Harry Reasoner from the CBS television news show "60 minutes" brought film crews to Jonesville to interview her about the small rural post office and its importance to the community. Reba Nolan became the next postmaster and expressed need for more space and mail boxes in order to provide better service to the community. The Smith and Vaughan families provided land for construction of a building to be used as the U. S. Post Office. Sammy Vaughan funded construction of the building when currently houses the post office.

From rustic trading post to a little nook inside the general store to a modern brick building, the Jonesville Post Office has served the community for 164 years. The United States Post Office in Jonesville, Texas 75659 was open and serving the community well before, during, and after the Civil War. The Jonesville Post Office survived World War I, the stock market crash of 1929, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War Crisis, the War in Iraq, and many other difficult times. The Jonesville Post Office has been in operation during the terms of thirty-four different Presidents. The Jonesville Post Office was established one year before the United States Treaty with Mexico which ended the Mexican War. The Jonesville Post Office was established before the California Gold Rush, before Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, before Yellowstone was designated our first national park in 1872, before the first skyscraper was built in Chicago, before women had the right to vote, and before Charles Lindbergh made the first intercontinental flight. Today, Jonesville Post Office serves residents and businesses in this small rural community and the surrounding area. Jonesville Post Office service is historically significant, has shown a significant increase in revenues over the past few years, and should be continued.

occupation authorities as compensation for "liberating" Afghanistan.

There is a lot of noise about Poland right now. A lot of noise, and a lot of smoke screens. But does any government sacrifice anything? After issuing thunderous condemnations, the European governments decided not to apply economic sanctions against the Eastern bloc, because sanctions would "harm us, probably, more than them." Why should you establish the kind of relations that only make you more vulnerable than the enemy? Why do you continue to sign new agreements of the same type (natural gas, for example)? The American banks recently decided to cover the huge Polish deficit because the "bankruptcy" of Poland would undermine the world financial system. What would happen, I wonder, if tomorrow the Soviet-bloc countries were to refuse to pay their debts and to suspend all trade?

This is what the struggle for peace and freedom boils down to: the people in the East should sacrifice their lives, but you should not sacrifice your profits. Small wonder that the Polish army does not rebel.

In fact, the imposition of economic sanctions on the Polish military junta and on their Soviet masters is not just a possible step: it is the actual obligation of the Western countries under the terms of the Helsinki agreement. A direct link among security, economic cooperation, and the observance of human rights is the very essence of this agreement. If that is forgotten now, of what point is all the noise lately heard from Madrid?

To tell the truth, I do not believe that any of it has been forgotten. Neither do I believe that the Western banks, industrialists, and governments are so "stupid" as to tie themselves to the Eastern chariot wheels by mistake. It is their deliberate policy, overtly articulated in the time of détente, and covertly now. Moreover, it is their philosophy. They love stability, these bankers and businessmen. And they are much against any resistance movement in the Communist countries, very much against any prospect of liberation for the enslaved nations of the East. They are the greatest peace-lovers of all, far more powerful than all those crowds on the streets of the European capitals. Thanks to them, we descend slowly into the Age of Darkness.

This article is not addressed to the bankers, or to the governments. I do not expect any help from them. In spite of all the harsh words used in it, I wish it to be read by sincere people who are seriously concerned with the problems of peace and freedom. They will probably dislike many of the things I have said here. I hope, however, that they will understand its main point: that peace has never been preserved by a hysterical desire to survive at any price. Nor has it ever been promoted by catchy phrases and cheap slogans. There are 400 million people in the East whose freedom was stolen from them and whose existence is miserable. It so happens that peace is impossible while they remain enslaved, and only with them (not with their executioners) should you work to secure real peace in our world.

Four recent mass demonstrations were disastrous, because in them you identified yourselves, willingly or unwillingly, with the rulers of the Eastern countries. To make broad alliances with any public (or governmental) forces just for the sake of power is a tremendous mistake. This mistake must be corrected if we are to live in peace and freedom. We should know who are our friends and who are our enemies. The fate of Solidarity should open our eyes. •

T. C. LINDSEY & CO., GENERAL
STORE AND POST OFFICE

HON. SAM B. HALL, JR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 1982

• Mr. SAM B. HALL, JR. Mr. Speaker, there is a nostalgia fad sweeping the country these days. People, as never before, are saving and buying everything from baseball trading cards to old medicine bottles.

However, there is an old country store located in my congressional district that is truly the authentic grandfather of all this nostalgia and antique collecting. It is called T. C. Lindsey & Co., and if you can not indulge your fondness for America's past at the Lindsey store, then you better find another hobby.

As anyone familiar with America's rural development knows, the country store is something of the past. From Maine to Florida, from Virginia to California, few of the authentic country stores have survived urban sprawl, interstate highways and massive shipping centers.

But, T. C. Lindsey's has survived. In fact, it has been in continuous operation since 1847 in Jonesville, Tex., and from all indications it is going strong as ever.

Two of the most energetic, finest businessmen you would ever meet—Sam and Tom Vaughan who are personal friends of mine run the store, and more than likely you will be waited on by one of these gentlemen; that is, unless one of them is busy acting in some Hollywood production. You see, the store has figured prominently in four motion pictures, including the incredibly popular, "Secret of the Pond," a Walt Disney film seen all over the world.

• In addition, the television series "60 Minutes," has done a segment on the Jonesville Post Office, which is located in the store. The Jonesville postmistress is Miss Emma—Sam Vaughan's wife—and she is known far and wide for maintaining total efficiency in this postal operation. In fact, Harry Reasoner described the post office as "the kind of post office everybody wishes they had."

The Lindsey store is the kind you want to visit again and again. There is no parking problem, conversation is friendly and informative, and the service, courtesy, and manners are the product of a bygone era when people thrived on being good neighbors and just plain being nice to each other. That is why if you were ever waited on at the store by Syble Elliott, you would never go to another shopping center. Syble has been helping folks in the store for the past 25 years.

It would take an extensive bibliography to list the magazines and newspaper stories about T. C. Lindsey & Co. Just last month the store was featured in Texas Monthly magazine. I will in-

clude a representative sample of these articles at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the country store is part of America's heritage, an important aspect of our historical development. American free enterprise was born and nurtured in these privately owned establishments that kept commerce and people moving. Some of America's greatest heroes started their careers clerking in a country store.

It lives on, this wonderful tradition, this bringing of people together, at T. C. Lindsey & Co. If my colleagues ever happen to be traveling east on Interstate 20 just outside of Shreveport, La. I hope they will exit at Waskom, Tex. and take Farm to Market Road 134 to the store. I wish every school child in America could spend some time there. They would learn about the goodness and decency of America. They would meet the finest people to be found anywhere on this Earth, and while doing so, they might enjoy some old-fashioned peppermint stick candy.

Mr. Speaker, as part of my remarks I commend the following articles about T. C. Lindsey & Co. General Store and Post Office to the attention of my colleagues and the Nation as follows:

[From the Longview Morning Journal, Aug. 15, 1982]

IT'S BEEN 135 YEARS, BUT STORE IN
JONESVILLE'S CHANGED LITTLE

(By Roy Linson)

JONESVILLE.—After 135 years of selling everything from overalls to plows to cow feed, the T.C. Lindsey Country Store is still going strong.

So strong, in fact, that Texas Monthly magazine recently called it the "granddaddy of Texas country stores and currently the best in the state."

Not a lot has changed since the store opened in 1847 as the William Jones Trading Post to supply groceries, feed and dry goods to nearby cotton farmers and their families.

T.C. Lindsey then took over the business and in 1922 hired a contractor by the name of G.E. Cargill, the father of Longview's Robert Cargill, to build the present white frame building beside FM 134.

A few years later, in February 1928, Lindsey's nephew Sam Vaughan, tired of the daily trip to his Shreveport job over icy roads, hired out as a clerk.

"I knew I was not gonna work but a week or ten days until I found another job," Sam said.

Now, 54 years later, he's still there behind the same counter reaching up to the same shelves for a plug of chewing tobacco, a can of tomatoes or a stick of striped candy.

Customers who've been trading at the store for years have notice more major differences as the years passed.

First the name was changed to T.C. Lindsey and Co., Sam represented the "and Co."

Then Sam's brother Tom Vaughan joined the staff to handle the books and buying.

In 1965 the store began taking on a whole new look when Sam took up collecting. He's been collecting for years, but was running out of space and began filling the store with his treasures. According to Marshall Office of Tourist and Convention Development Director LaVerta Lovell, his collection "would put many museums to shame."

Among the items is a copy of Sam's grandfather's personal pocket map—an 1853 edition which shows the Comanche Indian trails.

There's also a 1930 Texas license plate with three numbers, a 1920 boll weevil duster, a Thomas Edison cylinder and light bulbs, three styles of side saddles, old glass bottles, tools and thousands of other items.

Visitors can spend hours browsing among the display cases, looking at items covering the walls and peering into corners. But even after numerous visits, most discover some treasure they missed before.

When customers ask about prices, Sam is quick to tell them, "I don't sell my pretties." But if it's not a busy day, he'll take the time to tell them the item's history or spin one of his yarns of days gone by.

Although the antiques aren't for sale, replicas of some old items—such as churn jars and tea jars made by Marshall Potteries, sunbonnets and cans of ribbon cane syrup—can be purchased.

Tourists come from all over the world—more than 10,000 signed the visitor's book last year—to view this forerunner of one-stop shopping.

The store's not hard to find if you know where it is, although "many people tell us 'we just like to have never found you, you're so far back,'" said Syble Elliott, who's been clerking in the store for 25 years.

From I-20, going east, take the first Waskom exit and turn left onto FM 134. Go north on FM 134 for about two miles. The I-20 exit is about two miles west of the Louisiana state line. The store is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Two Walt Disney productions and two Charles Pierce movies have been shot on location at the Jonesville store. Sam appeared as the store proprietor in "The Secret of the Pond" in 1974.

Television shows such as "Eyes of Texas," "Four Country" and "PM Magazine" also have brought their cameras to record the treasures lining the walls of the store.

"60 Minutes" crews have even been to the store to interview Miss Emma, Sam's wife, who served as the Jonesville postmistress for more than 30 years. The coverage has drawn thousands of tourists to what Harry Reasoner described as "the kind of post office everybody wishes they had."

Miss Emma says she still can't believe that a town of about 180 inhabitants draws visitors from around the world.

But it does, and most of them take home what Sam calls the "best Yankee souvenir there ever was"—a Texas bull scraper.

[From the Marshall News Messenger, Apr. 8, 1981]

OLD SOUTH STYLE CONTINUES WITH JONESVILLE STORE

(By Jana Meyers)

Nostalgia literally clings to the walls. Remnants of history are packed on shelves and pushed onto tables, barely leaving room for aisles. At T.C. Lindsey and Co., except for a few boxes of Tide and bottles of Heinz ketchup, time has stood still.

Welcome to the era when cotton was king and the country store was a way of life.

T.C. Lindsey and Co., better known as the Jonesville Country Store, has been a part of the now almost non-existent Jonesville community since 1847 when Sam Jones established it as a trading post.

It is the only original store in the town to survive the heyday of cotton and possibly the only thing nearby to withstand the demise of the Old South.

It is surrounded by a broken cotton gin and warehouses of rusting, antique farm equipment, symbols of a broken civilization.

Tom Vaughan, one of the two brothers who own and run the store, will tell you that although cotton went out of business in 1873 and the town of Jonesville went with it, T.C. Lindsey and Co. is here to stay.

Actually, the day cotton lost its prestige as a chief crop and moneymaker was the day the store began its trek to fame.

Through the skillful handling of early owners and T.C. Lindsey, the Vaughan's uncle, the store held together as a showplace of the past decade. Later, it became the showplace of a bygone century.

After Sam Vaughan began work in 1928, business soon slacked off because of the depression. To counteract sliding business trends, Sam brought in a new gadget every day for more than a year as a promotion.

The gimmick apparently worked. Sam said the more relics he brought, the more people came to see—and the tradition lives on.

Although the store, located on FM 134, two miles west of Louisiana, is isolated from any large towns, Tom Vaughan said that "On Saturday, we have so many people, we can hardly tend to our business—visitors, you know."

And a glance at the great register discloses that T.C. Lindsey is more than a mere local trade name. Addresses from Oklahoma City, Pasadena, Calif., Carson City, Colo., and Taylorville, Ill., represent four of the fifty states Tom said have visited the store.

The attention does not stop with your run-of-the-mill visitor either. Walt Disney and Charles Pierce Productions have paid their respects to the store as well.

The Jonesville Post Office, adjacent to the store, was the setting for Bayou Boy, a 1970 motion picture, and Secret of the Pond, a 1971 TV movie, both by Walt Disney.

Disney found the general store in Jonesville ideally suited to the movie themes of another epoch, Sam said. The set makers rearranged and added a bit here and there for authenticity, he said, but for the most part, "most everything was already perfect."

"In 1970, they (Disney) wanted to buy everything," Tom added. "But no—if we sold them (the antiques), there wouldn't be anything here for you to come and see."

As if that were a problem. From Toledo Scales to the antique dentistry equipment, to collections of family branding irons and Coca-Cola bottles, to family portraits dating back to tintypes, to a 100 year old cheese cutter—the heritage in the store is almost as thick as the pride that accompanies it.

Part of that heritage and pride is in the cheese cutter, filled with Wisconsin "rat" cheese.

It's the kind of cheese that beckons one to partake and partake until an immense pair of "Tuf Nut" overalls, covering the width of the stairway from which they hang from ceiling to floor, would probably fit.

The overalls, Sam said, were once a part of a gimmick selling "Tuf Nut" jeans. Not as perennial as Sam's antiques, but nevertheless, unique in its own time.

Overalls, cheese—T. C. Lindsey and Co. has anything you care to buy. It even carries whiskey kegs as a reminder of the time when it was the last place in the county to sell whiskey legally.

"It's the Jonesville Mall. We sell everything," Tom said. "If you don't see it ask for it."

And if the Vaughan brothers don't by chance have it, you probably don't need it anyway.

[From the Texas Highways Magazine, Jan. 1976]

COUNTRY STORE

(By Bob Parvin)

Backwoods merchants Sam and Tom Vaughan don't figure there's much need in advertising their place. Folks around eastern Harrison County have been trading there for better than a hundred years. That's plenty of time to establish a business.

So competition isn't something that causes the proprietors to fret, at least where the reputation of their enterprise is concerned. The old T. C. Lindsey & Company general store is pretty well known. It's also getting sort of famous lately.

Seems it's about the only honest-to-goodness country store left in the piney woods country. Before folks drifted off to the cities and bad times settled on the farmer, crossroads stores like this old clapboard barn of a place were about as common as cotton patches across Texas. Now there're just a few left around the state and they say the Vaughan brothers are holding on to one of the best.

Why, you can walk in there and find just about anything—knee pads for cotton pickers to pork 'n beans. What they don't have you probably don't need, anyway.

Shell out two bits for a slice of aged Wisconsin cheese and a handful of saltines, pull a soda pop out of the cooler and settle back by the counter to breathe in some of that mellow atmosphere. Farmers drop by around noontime to cool off and jaw about the weather. The milkman stacks his delivery in the icebox and mixes company with an overalld chicken rancher come in to pay on his grocery bill. Country women drift in to pick up the mail and check up on the gossip. The squeaky front door opens and in saunter a couple of strangers, city folks out traveling the back roads and stumbling on a prize they thought had vanished from the countryside.

"Oh, man, just look at this place!"

The Vaughans' throwback store squats beside a crink in Farm Road 134 about five miles north of Interstate 20 which runs through nearby Waskom and to the Texas-Louisiana border. The curve effectively slows down traffic through the remnants of Jonesville, a once-booming cotton ginning town and railroad stop of which only the store, the locked-up building of its defunct competitor across the road, a few houses and a broken-down cotton gin remain.

In other buildings now long gone, Jonesville has had its country store for almost 130 years. The pioneer-times forerunner to the present structure was a cabin store owned by partners named Jones and Estes. Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan, Sam and Tom's granddad, purchased a half interest in the Jones-Estes Store in 1870. Around the turn of the century T. C. Lindsey took over. In 1922 the present store was constructed.

Sam hired on as a \$50-a-month bookkeeper in 1928, buying in 10 years later, and his brother dropped out of the oil business in 1947 to become the third partner. When Lindsey died in 1948, the brothers divided the ownership.

"Back in those days I couldn't find another job so I took this one thinking I'd not stay with it too long," says Sam. "Well, guess the old place sorta grew on me. Longest I've ever been away is 23 days and I wouldn't have been off that long if it weren't 'cause I was visitin' relatives."

"Never seen a place I like any better than here," he asserts. "Gonna keep on runnin' this ole place 'til I die. If I had to quit, I'd just go nuts, or something."

When cotton was king around Jonesville back in the 1930s and 40s, business at T. C. Lindsey Store was as diversified and prosperous as it is on Houston's Main Street today. Aside from serving as a place to buy staples and wares, the store was a home-style bank and loan agency for farmers, the main office and weigh station for the cotton gin, a polling place, a meeting hall and a hangout for everybody with time on his hands. In 1937 a record 2,976 bales of cotton were ginned in Jonesville.

"Back then this was a growin' goin' town," remembers Tom. "Used to be bodies in this store so thick you couldn't hardly move. When the gin'd break down, there'd be crap games in the back room and people milling around thick as flies."

"When we'd pay'em off for cotton, they'd plumb buy us out," he adds.

In 1973 the gin processed four bales of cotton and closed down for good.

In the meantime, Sam, a packrat at heart, had begun to assemble his lifetime's worth of collected bits of nostalgia in a backroom of the store. A huge collection of rusty old things crowds the room and now spills out into every available space left in the already jam-packed store. Everything imaginable that served the labors, pleasures, pains and pursuits of our forebears has been gathered by Sam to show amazed visitors.

"It's helping our trade," he admits. "This place is full of thousands of things you just can't find anymore. Used to be just people from 'round these parts were trading here. Now we're gettin' folks from all over the country."

This notoriety was abetted by the publicity generated by two Walt Disney movies which were partly filmed inside the store. "Bayou Boy" and "Mystery of the Pond" (recently aired on television), in which the plots unfold mostly around the swampy environs of nearby Caddo Lake, include the store and its owners in bit parts.

"Yessir, can't find many old stores like that'n anymore," claimed a longtime customer. "Hear tell those Disney people didn't even have to change things around much to take movie pictures. The old place hasn't changed a bit o'er the years."

H.R. 6188 POSES MODEL ANSWER : TO WATER CONTROVERSY

SPEECH OF

HON. HAL DAUB

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 16, 1982

● Mr. DAUB. Mr. Speaker, I rise in a strong support for the enactment of H.R. 6188, a bill which provides for the participation of the Department of the Interior in a study of the water use and development of the Platte River.

The Platte River is Nebraska's primary source of water and it meets the needs of our cities and towns as well as the agriculture demands of the State. This study will entail the cooperative resources of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation together with other Federal agencies which will produce, I believe, a report that for years hereafter

will be instrumental in decisionmaking with regard to the Platte River.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend my colleague, friend, and fellow Nebraskan Doug BERREUTER for his leadership in this matter. The people of Nebraska's First District—as well as all in Nebraska who depend on the Platte—are well served by his dedication, intelligence and legislative skill.●

NEW URBAN PARKS FACE A FIGHT TO SURVIVE

HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 17, 1982

● Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, the Christian Science Monitor's series "Islands in a Storm: Our National Parks" received deserved acclaim when it appeared in June. The author, Robert Cahn, spoke knowledgeably about the successes and problems of the entire national park system and of how important the system is to almost every American.

Mr. Cahn dedicated one article in his series to urban parks, the newest concept under the national park system—and also the most controversial. One of these parks, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, located partially in the 23d Congressional District I represent in Los Angeles County, is discussed at some length by Mr. Cahn. I authored the legislation that created this national recreation area, and I strongly advocate the preservation of natural areas in urban settings. As this article notes, however, urban parks have been the subject of a great deal of criticism recently and are under direct attack by the Department of the Interior.

If my colleagues read this article, I know they will understand the national significance of the Santa Monica Mountains and of other urban parks. As Mr. Cahn wrote:

Each of the national recreation areas I visited . . . is protecting valuable pieces of natural landscape and important historic sites, while providing recreation for people unable to travel to the larger, more famous national parks.

I commend the article to my colleagues' attention.

NEW URBAN PARKS FACE A FIGHT TO SURVIVE (By Robert Cahn)

(A decade ago, the Park Service embraced a new idea: national recreation areas in urban settings. Despite sharp criticism, these parks, like Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles, have endured.)

A year ago things were looking bleak for superintendent Bob Chandler. The 150,000 acres of beaches, mountains, hills, and canyons he was trying to preserve for the recreation of 10 million nearby Americans were in jeopardy.

In 1978 Congress had directed that this natural area, not yet swallowed up by south-

tion agreements would be the means. The hoped-for result: a new park, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, embracing both publicly and privately owned lands.

But in 1981 the effort was suddenly cast into limbo. The newly appointed secretary of the interior, James G. Watt, clamped a freeze on all National Park Service land acquisition funds. The new secretary also stated publicly: "I do not believe the national park system should run urban parks."

For superintendent Chandler, the freezing of acquisition funds put a roadblock in the way of purchasing several key parcels of land needed to hold the new park together. His public defense of the park and criticism of Watt's action as short-sighted brought a verbal reprimand from Washington. Meanwhile, morale at the park reached rock bottom. Staffers felt they had little communication from regional and national offices. "It's like we don't exist," said one.

Today the gloom has lifted. Chandler is optimistic that Santa Monica Mountains will not only survive but will come to be regarded as one of the outstanding units of the national park system. Santa Monica received \$6 million when Congress overruled Watt's total moratorium on land acquisition and restored part of the 1981 appropriation Watt had cut off. By spring of 1982, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was a viable, though far from complete part of the national park system. It had an expert staff working to protect its resources, and rangers helping to provide recreational opportunities for increasing numbers of visitors. The small portion of the area now owned by the Park Service recorded more than 395,000 visits last year, not counting the 7 million people who pass through the area or the 29 million who use the state beaches and other public areas of the new park. Even Secretary Watt appeared to have changed his tune. When asked by a reporter if he supported funding to complete the acquisition of lands for the Santa Monica area, Watt replied, "Yes, but not now."

Over the past 20 years, developers and real estate interests have relentlessly promoted unlimited urbanization of this area. But conservation groups and public-spirited citizens have worked to protect, within the national park system, what was left of the Santa Monica Mountains' natural value. The result is a tenuous, albeit effective, series of working arrangements between the Park Service and the other public and private owners of the land. These give a measure of protection to the nation's largest, relatively undisturbed example of a coastal Mediterranean ecosystem.

On a map, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area looks like a heavily gerrymandered political district. Its borders abound with bulges and narrow strips that exclude populated areas. From Point Mugu State Park on the west, running east along the entire mountain range for 47 miles, to the Hollywood Freeway, the park includes rugged 3,000-foot ridgetops, steep hillsides swathed in chaparral, manzanita, sage, and wildflowers, 44 miles of beaches, canyons of dry, golden grasses dotted with 400-year-old California live oaks and valley oaks, and streams lined with willows and sycamores. Bobcats, deer, coyotes, and a few mountain lions are among the 60 species of mammals in the area. Some 240 kinds of birds populate the park and one area. Chas-

Ref 3



08/17/2011

Postal Customer
JONESVILLE, TX 75659

This letter provides notice that the U.S. Postal Service is conducting a discontinuance feasibility study of facility operations at the Jonesville Post Office into the Waskom Post Office.

The office is being studied due to declining office workload, which may indicate that maintaining this facility is not warranted. The revenue and/or the volume this office has been in a steady decline over the past several years..

A discontinuance feasibility study involves a review of delivery and retail operations of a postal facility. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the facility's operations in a continuing effort to meet customers' retail needs, improve productivity, increase efficiency, and cut costs.

Customer needs have changed dramatically. Many customers receive and pay their bills online and communicate by email and text message. In addition, many customers demand easier, more convenient access to Postal Service products and services when and where they want them – online, on their smart phones and at the stores they frequent.

If a decision is ultimately made to discontinue the Jonesville Post Office and you are a Post Office Box customer, you will have the option of Post Office Box delivery at the Waskom Post Office, or you may receive carrier delivery at your residence. To request delivery, submit a request for establishment of rural delivery service, PS Form 4027, Petition for Change in Rural Delivery, is available at the Jonesville Post Office. The Waskom Post Office has retail hours from 900 to 1600 Monday through Friday and closed on Saturday, which is 5.0 miles away.

Retail services would continue to be available through a variety of channels beyond traditional brick-and-mortar facilities, such as the www.usps.com website, non-city delivery carriers, stamp consignment locations, and Stamps by Mail, Fax, and Phone.

We value your opinions during this review process. As the Postal Manager responsible for all Post Offices in your area, I would like your input concerning your postal needs. We encourage you to complete and return the enclosed survey in the pre-addressed postage-paid envelope provided. Your responses along with others received, will be included in the study and considered carefully before any final determination regarding discontinuance is made. Please submit your response no later than 09/06/2011.

A community meeting will be held to explain the study findings and to address community concerns. Postal representatives will be at the Jonesville Post Office, 2335 FM 134 Jonesville Texas 75659 on 08/27/2011 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about our service. You may wish to discuss and submit your questionnaire at that time.

Written comments may be hand-delivered to the Jonesville Post Office or mailed to:

District Discontinuance Coordinator
DALLAS PFC
951 W Bethel Rd
Coppell TX, 75099-9331

The study consists of a publicly available record, so please be advised that any information or responses that you furnish will be visible to others.

A proposal that further explains the nature and justification of the proposed change in service and requests for customer comment may be posted prior to the community meeting. Comments received from the questionnaire, community meeting, and proposal will be considered prior to making a final determination.

If you have any questions concerning this discontinuance feasibility study, please contact Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator Contact at (972) 393-6485.

Sincerely,

Frank Richards
Manager, Post Office Operations

Enclosures:
Customer Survey/Pre-addressed postage-paid envelope
Summary of Postal Service Retail Facility Change Regulations

Ref 4.1

Date of Posting: 08/23/2011

Date of Removal: 10/24/2011

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE
THE JONESVILLE, TX POST OFFICE
AND ESTABLISH
SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE



Ref 4.2

08/04/2011

VICTOR H BENAVIDES
DISTRICT MANAGER
DALLAS PFC

SUBJECT: Authority to Conduct Investigation

I request your authorization to investigate a possible change in postal services for the office in the 1 congressional district.

Post Office Name: JONESVILLE
Zip+4 Code: 75659-9998
EAS Level: 11
Finance Number: 484495
County: Harrison
Proposed Admin Office: WASKOM ADMIN Miles Away: 5.0
Near Office Name: WASKOM Near Miles Away: 5.0
Number of Customers:
Post Office Box: 111
Total Customers: 111
ZIP Code Change: Yes ☒ NO ☐ ZIP Code 75692
Maintain Town Name: Yes ☒ NO ☐

The above office became vacant when the postmaster retired on 02/29/2008.

(Please check below the rational for this study. You can check more than one box.)

☐ Emergency Suspension ☒ Office Workload
☒ Insufficient Customer Demand ☐ Reasonable Alternate Access
☐ Special Circumstances

FRANK RICHARDS
Manager, Post Office Operations

Approval to Study for Discontinuance:

VICTOR H BENAVIDES

DISTRICT MANAGER
DALLAS PFC

08/04/2011

DATE

cc: Area Manager, Public Affairs and Communication

Ref # 4.3



Docket: 1368541

NOTICE OF POST OFFICE EMERGENCY SUSPENSION

A. Office

Name: JONESVILLE State: TX Zip Code: 75659
Area: SOUTHWEST District: DALLAS PFC
Congressional District: 1 County: Harrison
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 484495
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

• There was no Emergency Suspension for this office

Prepared by: Allison Rizan
Title: DALLAS PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (972) 393-6485

Date: 08/04/2011
Fax No: (972) 393-6336

Ref 4.4

Jonesville Post Office Discontinuance Financial Summary				
Investment Facilities				
	Existing	Proposed	Total Cost	
Construction/Renovation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

Existing & Proposed Facilities				
	Existing	Proposed	1st YR Operating Saving	10 YR Operating Saving
Building Maintenance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Utilities	\$ 1,274	\$ 0	\$ 1,274	\$ 9,472
Transportation	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
EAS Craft & Labor	\$ 23,651	\$ 0	\$ 23,651	\$ 254,288
Contracts	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Rent	\$ 7,344	\$ 0	\$ 7,344	\$ 53,942
Total			\$ 32,269	
First Full Year Savings			\$ 32,269	
POD 10YR NPV				\$ 246,701
ROI				0 %

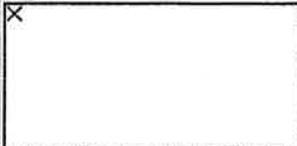
Ref 4.5



Discontinuance Feasibility Study Survey

1. Retail Facility Name: Jonesville Post Office		2. State and ZIP + 4 Code®: TX 75659-9998	
3. Facility Information			
a. Provide specific information about the facility, including structural defects, safety hazards, lack of running water or restrooms, and security issues. Include facility servicing documentation for all structural defects and safety hazards.			
None reported			
b. Is the facility accessible to persons with disabilities?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
4. Community Information			
a. Local government provided by: Harrison County			
b. Police protection provided by: Harrison County Sheriff Department, Marshall Texas			
c. Fire protection provided by: Waskom Fire Department and Marshall Fire Department			
d. Is the retail facility a state or national historic landmark?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
e. Are there special historic events related to the community?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If answer to 4e is "Yes," explain:			
TC Lindsey and Company will celebrate it's 165th anniversary in 2012.			
f. Describe the geographic and economic makeup of the community (retirees, commuters, farmers, etc.). Provide information on population and business activity trends.			
50%retirees, 50%commuters			
g. Provide the names of schools in the service area.			
none			
h. Provide the names of religious institutions in the service area.			
none			
i. Provide the names of organizations in the service area, including nonprofit organizations.			
Jonesville Foundation			
j. Provide the names of businesses in the service area, including small and home-based businesses.			
T.C. Lindsey and Company			

Ref 4.6

5. Retail Information	
a. Does the facility have an APC?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
b. Does the facility have a DDU drop?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
c. Does the facility have a FedEx drop box?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
d. Is the facility a non-Postal One! site?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
If the facility is a non-Postal One! site, attach a copy of PS Form 25, <i>Trust Fund Account</i> , and PS Form 3609, <i>Record or Permit Imprint Mailings</i> , for current permit mailers.	
6. Delivery Information	
a. Number of customers who receive duplicate delivery service: 0	
b. Approximate time of day the carriers begin delivery to the community: 11:00	
c. Describe how the mail is received and dispatched. Highway Contract Driver	
d. List potential CBU/parcel locker sites and their distance from the facility. None	
7. Administrative Office Information	
a. Facility Name: Waskom Post Office	b. State and ZIP + 4 Code@: TX 75692-9998
c. Number of miles from the facility under study: 5.0	
8. Nearest Office Information	
a. Facility Name: Waskom Post Office	b. State and ZIP + 4 Code@: TX 75692-9998
c. Number of miles from the facility under study: 5.0	
9. Other Information	
a. Do Postal Service employees offer assistance to senior citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
b. Do Postal Service employees offer assistance to handicapped citizens?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
c. If the answer to 9a or 9b is "Yes," what provisions can be made for these services if the facility is discontinued? These services can be provided by the Waskom Post Office located 5 miles away.	
d. List the non-postal services provided by the facility. Include items such as public bulletin board, school bus stop, community meeting location, voting place, and government form distribution center. None	
e. If mail theft or vandalism has been reported to the Postmaster/OIC, describe the situation reported. None	
10. Photos of Facility	
Provide digital photos of the facility. Include photos of front, back, full property view, and additional structures on the property.	
PREPARED BY:	
Printed Name: Allison Rizan	Title: PO Discontinuance Coordinator
Signature: 	Date: 08/11/2011

Ref 4.7



A. Office

Name: JONESVILLE State: TX Zip Code: 75659
Area: SOUTHWEST District: DALLAS PFC
Congressional District: 1 County: HARRISON
EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 484495
Post Office: ☒ Classified Station ☐ Classified Branch ☐ CPO ☐

This form is a place holder for number 9. And the verification of new service type is complete.

Prepared by: Allison Rizan
Title: DALLAS PFC Post Office Review Coordinator
Tele No: (972) 393-6485

Date: 08/11/2011
Fax No: (972) 393-6336

Proposal Checklist

Section I

Responsiveness to Community Postal Needs

Tell what we are doing and why.

Is reason for discontinuance justified and documented in the record?

If suspended, what type of alternate service customers are now receiving?

Reason for vacancy and information on postmaster/OIC

Number of customers and type of service they received and will receive.

Hours of service, daily window transaction average, number of permit mailers, and postage meter users.

Last three fiscal years of revenue and revenue units. *POC*

Decline in service workload/reduction in EAS level, if appropriate.

Nearest Post Office, office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available. *Admin. Wash DC*

Administrative/emanating office — office level, miles away, hours of service, number of Post Office boxes available.

If the nearby/administrative Post Office has a different Post Office box fee schedule, this is stated in the proposal.

Preproposal activities — questionnaires: number of favorable, unfavorable and no opinion responses must equal the total number of questionnaires returned. List customer concerns and Postal Service responses.

Community meeting. Number of customers who attended, customer concerns, and Postal Service responses. *8/27*

Information on petitions and congressional inquiries included with Postal Service responses.

Advantages and disadvantages of proposed alternate service. *POC*

Any other pertinent information concerning Postal Service needs. *POC*

Section II

Effect on the Community

Brief background of area, community government, population, etc.

Number of businesses, religious institutions, schools, local government offices, social organizations, etc.

Was Post Office used as meeting place?

Was Post Office a shelter for a bus stop?

Did the Post Office have a public bulletin board?

Did the Post Office provide assistance to senior citizens, persons with disabilities, etc.?

What is the historical value of the office?

Is an address change necessary?

Will the community identity be preserved?

Were any other nonpostal items identified?

Section III

Effect on Employees

Paragraph explaining about postmaster vacancy/OIC/other career and noncareer employees of the office. If a postmaster or other employees are reassigned this must be explained and tell whether the reassignments are voluntary.

Ref 4.9

Section IV

Economic Savings

Ten Year savings as follows:
Total ten year savings
Cost of relocation

\$ 246,701
~~\$ 346,701~~ AR

Section V

Other Factors

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration (if appropriate).
List other factors as appropriate.
Other factors when replacement service is a CPU.

Section VI

Summary

The proposal must include a brief summary that explains why the closing or consolidation is necessary and an assessment of how those factors supporting the need for change outweigh any negative factors. In taking competing considerations into account, the need to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular service must be paramount.

Section VII

Notices

Appropriate notice is made that this is a proposal and not a final determination. If a final determination is made to discontinue the office, information on the appeal process will be provided at that time.

Checklist Completed By:

ARyan

8/23/2011

Investigative Coordinator

Date

Reviewed and Certified By:

Allison Ryan

8/23/2011

District PO Review Coordinator

Date

DOCKET NUMBER 1368541 - 75659

Ref 4.10

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Jonesville, TX Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Waskom Post Office, located five miles away.

The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons; Due to declining office workload, which may indicate that maintaining this facility is not warranted. The revenue and/or the volume this office has been in a steady decline over the past several of years.

The Post Office facility had severe building deficiencies that included: None reported. The Jonesville Post Office provides retail service from 830 to 1300 - 1330 to 1600 Monday through Friday and 815 to 930 on Saturday. Revenue has seen a slight increase over the last several years.

The revenue trend is as follows: FY 07 \$ 15,783, FY 08 \$ 17,781, FY 09 \$ 18,816 and FY 10 \$ 25,120.

On August 27, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service will be available at the Jonesville Post Office, 2335 FM 134 Jonesville Texas 75659 to answer questions and provide information to customers.

On or about August 20, 2011, questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Jonesville Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Jonesville Post Office.

If this proposal is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Waskom Post Office, an EAS-18 level office. Window service hours at the Waskom Post Office are from 900 to 1600, Monday through Friday, and closed on Saturday. There are post office boxes available.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBU's can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned. However in order to ensure regular and effective service, the zip code will change to 75692.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Jonesville is an unincorporated community located in HARRISON County. The community is administered politically by Harrison County. Police protection is provided by the Harrison County Sheriff Department, Marshall Texas. Fire protection is provided by the Waskom Fire Department and Marshall Fire Department. The community is comprised of 50%retirees,50%commuters and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: T.C. Lindsey and Company . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Jonesville Post Office will be available at the Waskom Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Waskom Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

Finally there are 1 PMR(s) assigned to this unit. The PMR(s) may be separated from the Postal Service.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an ten year savings of \$ 246,701 with a breakdown as follows:

Building Maintenance

\$ 0

Ref 4.11

Utilities	\$ 9,472
Transportation	\$ 0
EAS Craft & Labor	\$ 254,288
Contracts	\$ 0
Rent	\$ 53,942
Relocation One-Time Cost	\$ 0
Total Ten Year Savings	\$ 246,701

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

VI. SUMMARY

The Postal Service is proposing to close the Jonesville, TX Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by rural route service under the administrative responsibility of the Waskom Post Office, located five miles away.

The 1 PMR(s) assigned to this unit may be separated from the Postal Service. The mail volume has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by rural route service.

The Jonesville Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 111 PO Box or general delivery customers and no delivery route customers.

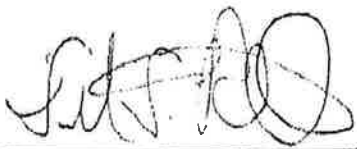
There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$ 246,701 over the next ten years. A disadvantage to some may be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this proposal is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. Support Materials. Copies of all materials upon which this proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Jonesville Post Office and Waskom Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. This is a proposal. It is not a final determination to close this post office. If a final determination is made to close this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination will be posted in this office.

The final determination will contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.



FRANK RICHARDS
Manager, Post Office Operations

Date

Ref 4.12



Postal Service Customer Questionnaire

Your responses to the following questions are important to the US Postal Service and will be considered in the feasibility study for the Jonesville Post Office. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and return it no later than 09/04/2011 in the postage-paid envelope provided.

The study consists of a publicly available record, so please be advised that any information that you furnish will be visible to others.

1. Do you visit the Jonesville Post Office for personal reasons, business-related reasons, or both?

☐

Personal reasons

☐

Business-related reasons

☐

Both

2. Please check the appropriate box to indicate whether you use the Jonesville Post Office for each of the following:

Postal Services

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Never
a. Buying Stamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Mailing Letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Mailing Parcels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Pick up Post Office box mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Pick up general delivery mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Buying money orders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Obtaining special services, including Certified Mail, Registered Mail, Insured Mail, Delivery Confirmation, or Signature Confirmation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Sending Express Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Sending Priority Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Carrier pickup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Buying stamp-collecting material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Entering permit or bulk mailings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Obtaining other federal agency forms (e.g., Selective Service, Duck Stamps, Passport Applications)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. School bus stop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Assisting senior citizens, persons with disabilities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Public bulletin board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Community gathering place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ref 4.12

3. Do you ever use any of the following alternative methods to conduct business with the Postal Service?

Post Office in vicinity of where you work or shop

☐ YES

☐ NO

usps.com website

☐ YES

☐ NO

Stamps by Mail

☐ YES

☐ NO

Stamps by Phone

☐ YES

☐ NO

Stamps Online

☐ YES

☐ NO

Click-N-Ship

☐ YES

☐ NO

Buy stamps or mail packages at grocery or other retail store

☐ YES

☐ NO

4. Do you currently use local businesses in the community?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. If you answered "yes" in Question 4, would you continue to use these businesses if the Jonesville Post Office is discontinued?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Do you currently use businesses in nearby communities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Do you have a means of transportation available to get to another Post Office in the vicinity?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. How do you currently receive your mail?

☐ Carrier ☐ PO Box ☐ Other

Additional Comments:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ref 5.1

August 15, 2011

Allison Rizan
District Discontinuance Coordinator
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9331

Dear Allison,

This letter serves as a follow-up to our phone conversation earlier this morning about the United States Post Office, 2335 FM 134, Jonesville, Texas 75659. Although you said that both Deborah Ebera and Frank Richards would give you a copy of my letters to them, I have included a copy of each letter for you. I have also included a copy of the letter I sent to Ruth Goldway, Chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission. I received a reply to my letter to Ruth Goldway from Annie Kennedy. I have attached a copy of that letter.

Allison, rather than to inundate you with many detailed facts contained in the other letters, I will summarize that Jonesville had a post office before Elysian Fields, Waskom, Scottsville, and Karnack. Jonesville's first postmaster was appointed January 18, 1847...164 years ago. Until the newer current post office building was opened in 1989, the Jonesville Post Office was housed inside my family's country store, T. C. Lindsey & Company. My aunt was postmaster until retirement. The appointed replacement postmaster, Reba Nolan (her last name is now Burkhalter because she married Lloyd Burkhalter who later served as postmaster in Jonesville) pushed for a new facility with modern conveniences and more post office boxes until my aunt's son built a modern facility in close proximity to our store...just a short distance.

Last week, Kim Vaughan Scrivener (manager of Jonesville Museum) called the postal service lease rental agent and offered to greatly reduce the monthly lease fee in order to reduce costs on the Jonesville Post Office. She was told by the USPS lease rental agent that reducing expenses would not help the matter. You told me that low revenue was one reason for being on the list of potential closures. If expenses are reduced, wouldn't that help?

If post office box rental fees were increased, wouldn't that help? Having a safe and secure locked mail box inside the Jonesville Post Office 75659 is certainly worth paying a higher box rental fee. Rural theft and vandalism rates in Harrison County exceed the state average. I retrieved that statistic online.

You also mentioned that the work load/contact hours of labor for Jonesville Post Office was determined to be 2.2 hours. If the hours of operation were reduced, wouldn't that help? Our Jonesville Post Office opens for a short while on Saturday mornings. If Saturdays were removed from the days being open for service, wouldn't that help? I don't know of another Post Office nearby that offers Saturday service.

The United States Postal Service has documented a sharp decline in revenue across the country and has stated its dire financial status. If Jonesville's revenue has not dropped below the national revenue decline level, why is our post office being considered for closure as opposed to some other post offices which have much greater expenses on their ledgers? It will be interesting to see what our current post office box rentals and revenues are compared to previous years. The same is true for sales figures. Hopefully, Jonesville Post Office is improving or at least above the national level of decline.

While moving post office boxes to our store might seem a solution, the move seems much more complex than just keeping the current Jonesville Post Office in operation. Reduce hours/days of operation, accept a lesser lease amount, raise mail box rental fees, and keep us happy.

Allison, Jonesville is an historical community with a very colorful past. I am hoping as you read through the my letters to other Postal Service representatives that you, too, will begin to understand the strong bond my family has with this community and our Jonesville Post Office. I do not ever want to have an address other than Jonesville....not only because of inconvenience in having to change legal address on multiple documents, subscriptions, passport, etc.....but most importantly for my family heritage. My family has significantly contributed to this community by providing space and a facility for use by the United States Postal Service for years. We want to keep that longevity trend going well beyond the 165 year service mark. If low revenue and actual work load are the reasons why we are under evaluation for closure, then let Jonesville compensate for those factors with reduced expenditures.

Good luck in your 21 discontinuance cases. While not all of our family will be available to meet you on August 27th, perhaps you will experience the strength of our community just by being here. Thank you for sharing your responses with me earlier today. If you have need for any other information about Jonesville, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

P. S. I will be writing to the Postal Regulatory Commission's Public Representative assigned to the Advisory Opinion docket either this afternoon or tomorrow.

Ref 5.12
p. 3

7007 2560 0000 7310 4660

U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)	
For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com	
OFFICIAL USE	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 559

JONESVILLE TX 75875
Postmark
Here
2011
USPS

Sent to	ALLISON RIZAN
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.	951 W. BETHEL ROAD
City, State, Zip+4	COPELL TX 75099-9331

PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions

August 15, 2011

RE: Jonesville Texas Post Office 75659

Allison Rizan
District Discontinuance Coordinator
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9331

Dear Allison,

Just asking a few more specific questions:

Will your evaluation encompass the current year's Jonesville Post Office 75659 sales, revenue, box rentals, expenses, and postal employee wages or will the evaluation be based on several years?

If Jonesville Post Office 75659 has rented more post office boxes than in the past, will that be taken into consideration?

If increases in sales are observed for Jonesville Post Office 75659, will that observation receive favorable response by those who make the final decision about keeping it open?

If the Jonesville Post Office 75659 lease rental fee is immediately reduced, will that receive favorable response by those who will be making the final decision about keeping the Jonesville Post Office 75659 open?

Will historical significance of a 164 year old postal service business be taken into favorable consideration or is such history insignificant to the decision process?

Will the United States Postal Service pay for the removal of the existing postal service building and pavement for parking should the USPS decide to close the Jonesville Post Office? It was built voluntarily to accommodate the requests of Postmaster Reba Nolan who expressed need for more space and modern facilities. The land would not have been permitted to have been used for construction of any other facility, nor would Sammy Vaughan have paid for such building and parking lot construction had we known the USPS would possibly close the post office at its discretion without consideration.

If the U.S.P.S. should decide to close Jonesville Post Office 75659, will the U. S. P. S. compensate the Vaughan family members who currently own undivided interests in the property upon which the building and parking lot are situated? The U. S. P. S. lease . rental agent has paid lease fees to Kim Vaughan Scrivener, Manager of The Jonesville Museum, but the U. S. P. S. has never compensated the heirs of Thomas Worth Vaughan (Marty, Ellen, and Lelia) for use of their interests. I ask this question if and only if a negative decision is made which results in the Jonesville Texas Post Office being closed permanently.

When Kim Vaughan Scrivener called the U. S. Postal Service lease rental agent and offered considerable reduction in the lease amount effective immediately, she was told that the lease rental expense would not matter in the decision at all since the decision was primarily attributable to salary of the postal attendant. After our conversation this morning and your disclosure that the decision would be made based on revenue and work-load hours, would our offer still be accepted in favorable manner to reduce the actual Jonesville Post Office expenses???? That agent left Kim with a "no thank you/no acceptance" feeling, but if such reduction will help, will you contact that agent and get him to ask for the offered reduction....or do I need to call Kim and ask her to reiterate her offer to that agent again or to someone else?

If the United States Post Office in Jonesville, Texas 75659 had remained in our country store, the mail box rentals would be above 100%. The U. S. Postal Service employed Reba Nolan who made the request for a bigger and better facility for postal service. The U. S. Postal Service was happy that we had allowed our lands to be used for such purposes. The U. S. Postal Service made certain specifications to comply with building standards, etc., and my cousin, Sammy Vaughan followed those specifications and built that postal service specific structure for postal service in Jonesville. More post office boxes were installed in the current building than had been in the old post office inside our store. Is there a percentage occupancy standard that determines whether or not the Jonesville Post Office should stay open? Or is there a per capita standard applied to the number of rented post office boxes?

Lastly, Lloyd and Reba Nolan, both former Jonesville postmasters, live in Jonesville, but for some reason they do not patronize Jonesville Post Office 75659. They requested rural delivery from Waskom when Lloyd stopped working as our postmaster. They live not far from our post office on Bellview Road in Jonesville. I am uncertain about why they do not use our post office, but I suspect it might be due to something pertaining to their employment with the postal service. Ordinarily, former postmasters can be of assistance in times like these, but they seem to prefer Waskom as their address. It seems sad in comparison to how my family cherishes Jonesville.

I hope you don't mind hearing from me and/or other family members throughout this process. After all, our Vaughan family will be seriously impacted if a discontinuance judgment is passed. Good luck in your endeavor. Wish we could resolve this without having to go to all of the trouble. Let me know if there is a way to keep our current post office open.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Ref 5.2
page 3

7007 2560 0000 7310 4974

U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)	
For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com	
OFFICIAL USE	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 559



Sent to ALLISON RIZAN	
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. 951 W. BETHEL RD	
City, State, ZIP+4	COPPELL TX 75099-9331

PS Form 3800, August 2006 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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1. Article Addressed to:

**ALLISON RIZAN
DISTRICT DISCONTINUANCE
COORDINATOR
951 W. BETHEL RD
COPPELL TX
75099-9331**

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X *W. Vaughn* ☐ Addressee
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PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

August 31, 2011

District Manager and Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099

Dear District Manager and Allison Rizan,

Enclosed are the additional signature pages as promised. I trust that these late entries will be accepted and put on the official record with the previous Petition mailed yesterday, August 30, 2011.

Also, I have enclosed information pertaining to historic sites and areas which were evidently overlooked when the financial statement/community report was prepared. It might have been easier to physically show you these sites in Jonesville, but perhaps these articles and photos will suffice as proof of their existence in this 164 year old community. As expressed at the community meeting on August 27, 2011, Jonesville is not a typical small community. Our residents, businesses, and historic sites are spread out over several miles from the post office. Jonesville has been a very wide spread community for years. The historical significance of this community has been documented in Texas literature, and I trust that if you have any doubts whatsoever, the Harrison County Historical Courthouse Museum has many records that can substantiate Jonesville's origin, the **pre-Civil War railroad** from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville, the **Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Locust Grove Plantation** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Concord Cemetery**, **Old Border Baptist Church**, and **T. C. Lindsey & Company** which evolved from the initial 1847 trading post....all of which are in Jonesville, Texas 75659.

Do you need documentation that there are other businesses in Jonesville in addition to T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store? **EXCO Resources** (formerly named Winchester Oil/Westchester Gas) was started here in Jonesville by Sammy Vaughan, the man who designed and built the current post office building. He was killed in a plane crash, and one of his daughters became CEO of his company. Her name is Kim Scrivener, and she is the manager of the Jonesville Museum which serves as lessor for the post office building. Kim Scrivener is the person who offered the USPS lease rental agent a 50 % reduction in lease fees on August 12th. The office building for EXCO was hit by lightning and burned. EXCO still is a Jonesville Post Office business customer. **The Jonesville Museum** was destroyed last year by a tornado. The slab is just north of the post office. Both buildings were built around the same time in the late 80's. **TGGT** is a very large Texas Gas Gathering and Transmission pipeline company which provides service throughout this region. They recently built a new office building in Jonesville which is located on FM 134 and at the site of a large compression station. There are other small business entities in Jonesville which don't have "store front" shopping locations. Jonesville has philanthropists, investors, carpenters, back yard auto mechanics, oil field workers, home-based businesses, and other business interests.

Ref 5.3
P 2

If one is not familiar with a community, its characteristics are often overlooked or misjudged. Perhaps the person who prepared the official financial statement/report about Jonesville's Post Office and the community served, only saw one place to shop and recorded only one business. That was an unfortunate mistake in USPS research. Hopefully, you will correct the records and reconsider the true characteristics of this community and its residents. I guarantee you that I do not fit under the umbrella of "retiree" or "commuter," nor do many other Jonesville residents. While there are some retirees and some commuters in Jonesville, the percentages reported in the official USPS statement are very incorrect and misrepresented.

You must know by now that our small rural post office has experienced a **significant increase in revenue** over the last three years rather than a decline. That is a fact recorded in the financial statement of Jonesville's Post Office which should be celebrated. There is no doubt that small rural post offices serve a major need. Why would an Area Manager recommend to a District Manager that a successful rural post office be closed? Why would an Area or District Manager just sign such a legal document without making sure its content truthfully represents the community being considered for discontinuance? Please look beyond the obviously incorrect USPS Area/District interpretation of our community as recorded in that financial statement/report and grasp our truthful increase in revenue in the palms of your hands and reverse the recommendation for discontinuance.

Devotion to our Jonesville Post Office was certainly obvious at the community meeting. Should you choose to maintain the current recommendation for discontinuance, residents and postal patrons will be displeased and this battle will continue. Would it not make sense to please the majority of the community and continue the Jonesville Post Office 75659 rather than to please only a few rural route residents who live in our Jonesville area? **Perhaps Waskom Post Office should discontinue some of its rural deliveries to Jonesville area residents who live in relative close proximity to Jonesville Post Office 75659.** Fewer residents would be inconvenienced and negatively impacted. Residents and businesses in Jonesville prefer post office box delivery rather than street delivery because it is safer and more secure. Jonesville residents and businesses would have to drive 2600 miles extra per year to get their mail in Waskom. That scenario would greatly impact the majority of residents and businesses. Please reconsider the recommendation and propose that Jonesville's Post Office be continued, that Waskom's Post Office discontinue rural delivery to Jonesville residents, and that Jonesville's small rural post office should be celebrated for increasing revenues as compared to the many revenue declines which have been reported across the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129

September 4, 2011

Ref 5.4

District Manager and District Discontinuance Coordinator

Enclosed are additional Jonesville community related photos to be included with the previous sets of photos sent to your offices last week and which should be put into the official records pertaining to Jonesville Post Office 75659.

Please notify me at your earliest convenience if you should need additional proof of our community as it exists now and/or as it has existed for years. I am not the only resident providing information to you. It is a community-wide effort. I just happen to live across the road from the post office and from T. C. Lindsey & Company and am serving as the community data collector in our pursuit to keep Jonesville's USPS Post Office 75659 in service.

Do you want more information pertaining to Jonesville, Jonesville businesses, foundations, organizations, churches, or postal service in Jonesville? Senator Wright Patman contributed information to Concord Cemetery Association years ago when the association was developing a history of that cemetery. Senator Patman provided the historical listing for post office openings, postmasters, and date of first service to the public for Jonesville and other communities around Jonesville. I will be happy to try to copy his entries should you need additional proof for the files.

For documentation purposes, I have enclosed photos of The Jonesville Museum which was destroyed by the January 2010 tornado, the concrete slab of the museum which is all that remains today, and a photo of the former EXCO office and TGGT office which was destroyed by fire as a result of a lightning strike. The building had to be demolished due to its lack of stability and safety.

Don't hesitate to contact me should you need additional information. If I receive other useful photos or information from the community at large, I will forward it to you.

Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Allison Rizan
CSA-OPS
Dallas District
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75009-9631

Dear Allison,

In response to your letter which I received on the morning of September 13, 2011, I think you must be somewhat confused for I have never written a letter to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent reduction of the Jonesville Post Office nor have I ever spoken to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent of the Jonesville Post Office. Furthermore, I have never negotiated lease rental reduction for any post office throughout my entire lifetime. You have evidently confused me with someone else.

While I was provided a copy of a letter sent on August 22, 2011 to a Mr. Bill McMurry, the copy was provided for my documentation file relative the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659 and its unfortunate recommendation/proposal for discontinuance. On September 12, 2011, a person named John Logan called and represented himself as the real estate agent for the United States Postal Service. I was not at home at the time because I was with my timber consultant assessing damage to my family's timber property which was destroyed in a wildfire here in Harrison County on September 11, 2011. When I returned home, I retrieved a message from Mr. Logan and returned his call. He wanted to discuss renegotiating the lease rental fee reduction offer which I had made, but which I made clear to him that I had not made and that he had contacted the incorrect person. He stated that he had my name and wanted to confirm the accuracy of the terms in the contract as written. I assured him that he had the incorrect person and that I was not the lessor. I told him that The Jonesville Museum was lessor of the building which houses Jonesville Post Office 75659.

I further advised him that in a letter dated September 2, 2011 from Linda J. Welch, Vice President, Southwest Area Operations of the United States Postal Service, I had been advised that "There are two reasons the USPS real estate specialist did not agree to renegotiate the lease terms: (1) The current term does not expire until 2015 and we are still working on leases for 2011 to 2013, and, (2) Because this facility is identified on the Post Office discontinuance study list., until all the studies have been completed we are very careful not to enter into a new lease contract." Mr. Logan indicated that his negotiation had nothing to do with what Linda Welch had written to me, that it was totally unrelated, and that he wanted to make arrangements to accept the offer so that USPS would not be shown to lose money by not accepting an offer too good to not accept. He asked for the name of the person to contact, and I was somewhat shocked that if he had a copy of the written confirmation of the offer from The Jonesville Museum manager that he would not have seen the manager's name on the signature line on the copy he had. I told him he needed to contact Kim Vaughan Scrivener. He wanted her number, but I had just walked into my house from seeing the devastation created by wildfire which had destroyed a significantly large tract of timber belonging to me and my

family. I told him that I would have to find the number. I also had to contact family members about the timber loss and about our other tract which was most likely lost but which the timber consultant and I could not access due to the fire still burning. I told Mr. Logan that I would find Kim Vaughan Scrivener's phone number and call her about it. I did call Kim and gave her the message.

Allison, how could the district office not know the name of the lessor or to whom such a call should be made? That truly concerns me and should be of concern to those who serve in supervisory positions within USPS. I believe the United States Postal Service has had a contractual relationship with The Jonesville Museum for over twenty years, has paid lease rental fees for that long, has sent lease rental fees to Kim Vaughan Scrivener as manager of The Jonesville Museum for that long, evidently had a phone call and offer from Kim Vaughan Scrivener on August 12, 2011, and received a letter dated August 22, 2011 which contained a written restatement of the verbal offer for the reduction of rent by fifty percent. I am not a member, trustee, representative, agent, or any other type of decision maker for The Jonesville Museum nor am I the lessor. Hopefully, Mr. Logan advised you of this fact. Your letter stated that "the Real Estate Department will notify you when they have made their decision."

I hope that fact gathering has proceeded properly, that truthful facts have now been acknowledged and documented for the purposes of being considered rather than the misinformation and various errors in the community description provided and signed by Area Manager Frank Richards in the official document on display in the Jonesville Post Office, and that district officials will realize the worth of Jonesville Post Office 75659 being continued rather than discontinued. This very necessary defense of Jonesville Post Office and the rebuttal required to assert the truth is very time consuming, very costly, and very stressful for a community which is also suffering wildfires and continued drought conditions which make the fire danger even more extreme.

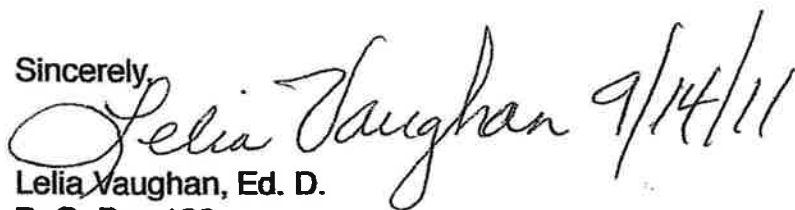
If the district has its mind made up that Jonesville's post office will be discontinued, why put us through so much additional stress? Jonesville residents and businesses need the post office. Can USPS honestly state that there would be no adverse impact on the businesses in Jonesville? The most recent letter from Frank Richards in response to comments submitted on the questionnaire stated that "Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely effected." Allison, Jonesville Post Office 75659 was not suspended. Why in the world would such an inappropriate answer be given to any resident who made comments on a questionnaire provided by USPS? Frank's letter to me dated September 9, 2011 mentioned "suspension" more than once. If letters were sent to other Jonesville residents and businesses with content similar to what was in mine, the United States Postal Service and the District should be embarrassed. I do understand how stressful your job must be in ascertaining true facts and considerations, but official USPS responses which reference "since suspension of service" when service has not been suspended are inappropriate. I am embarrassed for the United States Postal Service because such action on the part of District officials

Ref 5.5.
p 3

is disgraceful and demeaning to USPS which formerly was highly respected and revered. Perhaps it was a mistake in judgment on the part of someone given the task to assign an answer/statement to a resident's question or comment, but it does not offer any relative degree of support for citizen and community respect for the United States Postal Service. The United States Postal Service is having a difficult time as it is without being so misrepresented by inappropriate responses and actions.

I am certain that it must be very difficult on you as District Discontinuance Coordinator, but perhaps you have gained experience and knowledge throughout this process which will make you a more sensitive and responsive evaluator. Evaluation is not an easy task. Evaluation requires thorough fact finding, complete data gathering, very precise interpretation of facts and data, complete consideration of all factors, documentation, and appropriate reporting. Good luck with the remainder of the discontinuance process. If you need additional supportive information about Jonesville or our Jonesville community, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.

P. O. Box 129

Jonesville, Texas 75659

cc. Deborah Ebera
Linda J. Welch

Ref 5.5
P4

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PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions	

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1. Article Addressed to:

Allison Rizan
USPS District Discontinuance
Coordinator
951 W. Bethel Rd
Coppell TX 75009-9631

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October 11, 2011

District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9631

Dear District Discontinuance Coordinator,

Jonesville Post Office 75659 has been subjected to critical evaluation since July 27, 2011. In this two and a half month period, your office has encouraged input from residents and customers of the post office. Your office, the office of the Manager of Consumer Affairs, and the District Manager's office have replied with very general statements about the financial decline of USPS and that no decision has been made relative to discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office. Just recently, your letters have contained statements advising that residents must submit official requests for information utilizing the Public Access to Information process. Your offices have not indicated how residents can and should fulfill that additional requirement. One would certainly have to have internet computer access in order to find out how to submit requests for Public Access to Information from the United States Postal Service. I am fortunate enough to have a computer and internet access, but it appears that the office in Washington DC which handles such requests may not be able to provide an answer until after the deadline for Jonesville residents to be able to comment. With that said and considered, I would like to restate for clarity, the following facts which your offices have shared in conversation by phone, in the community meeting, in written content within the official Proposal for Discontinuance which is on display in the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659 and supposedly on display in the Waskom, Texas Post Office, and in responses to customer concerns entered on the questionnaires and in letters sent to the district office.

Workload for Jonesville's post office was reported to be 2.2. Improvement in workload could be established with a reduction in hours of operation. Why has district not made an adjustment?

Notification letters and official proposal stated that the revenue was reported as low, declining, a steady decline, and showing a slight increase **while in the financial report a significant revenue increase of 59% was reported over the past three years.** Why is there such discrepancy among the various official USPS statements?

The official Proposal for Discontinuance stated that there would be a significant savings to USPS if Jonesville Post Office were discontinued, **but the financial figures reported did not consider costs and expenses** which would additionally be transferred to Waskom Post Office which would have to provide post office box delivery and/or rural carrier delivery to 127 additional Jonesville Post Office box holders who would be inconvenienced with address changes should Jonesville Post Office be discontinued. Additionally, **your official financial report did not consider the additional lease**

rental fees which would necessarily have to be paid through 2015 in order to fulfill contract agreements with the lessor. Cost savings must consider all costs and expenses necessary for making a change including imposition of additional costs on the post office to which Jonesville's customers would be transferred for service. **We requested a complete financial statement very early in the discontinuance process, but we received a very insufficient and incomplete accounting of the finances of our post office and the corresponding projected financial impacts should our post office be discontinued.**

Distance from nearest post office was reported as 5 miles. This measurement was evidently made from Jonesville Post Office site to Waskom Post Office site. The majority of Jonesville residents do not live near the Jonesville Post Office but much further from the Waskom Post Office than the Jonesville Post Office.

At the request of **USPS real estate agent John Logan**, the lessor, **The Jonesville Musuem (Kim Scrivener, Manager)**, signed, executed, and submitted a renegotiated lease to the real estate agent in which the lease amount was reduced to fifty percent of the current lease amount. What is the status of that most recent lease?

Decreases in customer demand for postal service and decreasing mail volume have impacted USPS nationwide. **Jonesville Post Office has experienced an increase in post office box rentals and an increase in revenue over the past few years.** You have suggested in responses to our written concerns well after the community meeting date on August 27th that **postmaster vacancy** is another contributing factor for our post office being considered for discontinuance. Why has USPS not tried to fill the vacancy? If you have known this for three years, why was no attempt made to fill the vacancy and why was this fact not disclosed to the public prior to the Proposal for Discontinuance, an official USPS document which contains a very misrepresentative description of our community and residents and very untruthful statement of facts.

Some of your responses to the submitted official USPS Community Questionnaires stated that residents and businesses would not be impacted by discontinuance of our post office, that those with concerns for security of mail delivered to rural boxes should put a lock on their roadside boxes, and that rural carriers can provide efficient service on the roadside. Residents have opposed such statements which were evidently based on an evaluation of questionnaire responses. **Questionnaire delivery, content, structure, potential for bias, and competent evaluation have been challenged without response from USPS.** Questionnaires which do not address the specific nature of small rural unincorporated communities do not truly provide accurate evaluative measures of community need for post offices. Furthermore, we have submitted how we would be impacted by discontinuance, why unattended mail box delivery is unsafe in our community, and our concerns for efficient rural delivery.

While you have encouraged input from all residents, **the deadline we were given for submitting questionnaire responses was printed in our notification letters as "no later than September 6, 2011."** The community meeting was on August 27th. Some

post office box holders had questionnaires delivered to their post office boxes on August 22nd. Some residents were not in town that week or that day. **Not all residents of our unincorporated community were provided notification letters and questionnaires** because there are Jonesville residents who receive mail by rural delivery from the Waskom carrier. **Rural delivery residents of Jonesville were not notified or provided an opportunity for input.** Some Jonesville residents are Spanish speaking and have since communicated that they had trouble reading English and your letter and questionnaire. **USPS did not provide translated notification letters and questionnaires in Spanish for those residents who have difficulty reading English.** Why did USPS District Officials ignore obtaining input from **all residents and customers of Jonesville Post Office 75659?**

Residents and businesses in Jonesville have challenged the content in the official **Proposal for Discontinuance** because the content does not accurately describe residents, businesses, non-profits, organizations, and historic events relative to Jonesville.

- a. only one business in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- b. only one non-profit in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- c. no churches in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- d. no organizations in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- e. only one historic event relative to Jonesville - **incorrect**
- f. residents are 50 % retirees and 50% commuters - **incorrect**
- g. no mail thefts reported in Jonesville - **but majority of residents have mail delivered to a locked post office box inside Jonesville Post Office 75659. There were 5 reported burglaries in 75659 for the 6 months prior to our August 27th community meeting with USPS officials which substantiates our stated concerns about safety and security of mail delivery to unattended mail boxes on the roadside.**

Responses from you have stated that USPS financial decline has been caused by widespread internet usage, **but the majority of residents in Jonesville do not have internet access.**

You have indicated that a rural carrier can provide efficient service that would be obtained through a post office. **Can the current Waskom mail carrier fulfill that promise to 127 additional rural mail boxes for residents and businesses on the roadside without necessitating that USPS hire additional rural carriers?** Has a rational consideration of that requirement been **researched?**

You have indicated that Jonesville residents may rent a post office box at the Waskom Post Office. **Does Waskom Post Office have 127 additional rental mail boxes which are available for rent, and if not, what will financially be required to provide adequate service to Jonesville customers should they seek secure delivery at a post office?** Is there adequate parking at the Waskom Post Office should 127 customers drive to get their mail? Will 127 more mail boxes fit into the Waskom Post

Office? Will current postal employees in Waskom be able to efficiently handle additional mail volume required for delivery of 127 more customers?

Jonesville residents, businesses, and organizations have been making comments and stating concerns throughout this proposed discontinuance process. This community extends beyond the post office location in every direction. Jonesville has been in existence as a widespread community since 1847 when our first postmaster was appointed on January 18, 1847. **Because of the rural nature and expanse of this community, loss of our post office will be devastating to residents and businesses.** If Jonesville loses its post office and zip code, our community's identity will be at high risk for being forever lost. Loss of zip code imposes serious map identity burdens not only for residents, but for the various businesses in this community. **Jonesville's community identity is based on existence of a post office and zip code as is true in many other communities across rural America. Denying this fact would be a tragic mistake on the part of USPS officials and would impose very serious demands, costs, and burdens on Jonesville residents and businesses.**

Discontinuing Jonesville Post Office 75659 will not only impact Jonesville residents and businesses, but it will burden the United States Postal Service.

- a. customers and businesses with internet access will, for security reasons, actively seek internet transactions rather than driving to Waskom or risking rural delivery.
- b. customers will lose respect for USPS due to the shallow misrepresentation provided by the USPS Area Manager and District Manager which resulted in the discontinuance proposal
- c. customers and businesses will actively seek alternative means for package delivery due to potentially inefficient waiting time in Waskom and/or inconvenience for waiting on a rural carrier
- d. customers who do not currently have computers or internet access will seek an alternative means for communicating other than through USPS
- e. USPS will have to continue to pay lease rental fees through 2015
- f. USPS will have to reimburse post office box holders' prorated box rental fees
- g. USPS will likely lose loyal patronage due to misrepresentation of our community, disregard for our history, our identity, our businesses and organizations, and our overall need for a post office which is necessary for preserving our community identity.
- h. USPS will lose revenue and will have increased expenses for accommodating Jonesville residents by another means of delivery

WHY SHOULD JONESVILLE POST OFFICE 75659 BE CONTINUED?

1. **Jonesville Post Office has shown a 59% increase in revenue over past three years when most post offices and USPS have suffered declines in revenue.**
2. **Workload efficiency can be improved by reducing the hours of operation and eliminating Saturday window service and delivery. Reduction in hours of**

Ref S.6
p 5

operation could have been established prior to discontinuance proposal if workload inefficiency knowledge was known and yet not acted upon.

3. Revenue generation can be improved with an increase in post office box rental fees and expenses can be reduced through execution of the renegotiated lease which grants fifty percent reduction in yearly lease fees and by reducing the hours of operation which would accordingly reduce the hourly wages of the postal clerk.
4. You have witnessed the loyalty of Jonesville residents as shown through the very crowded community meeting attendance beyond building capacity and as evidenced by multiple letters of support sent to your offices for keeping Jonesville Post Office in operation. You also have received substantial proof of the inadequate and erroneous statements prepared by the district in the official Proposal for Discontinuance. Friends of Jonesville Post Office will be submitting additional information about the community, its residents, its internet usage, its businesses, and area wide and regional support for continuance of Jonesville Post Office 75659.
5. Our postal clerk has obviously and positively contributed to USPS service as shown by increases in stamp sales and post office box rentals. Our postal clerk is an hourly wage earner who is not on a full benefit postal service salary. Our postal clerk has promoted stamp sales in the lobby, has provided friendly and efficient service, and has done an exemplary job representing USPS. Imagine what our postal clerk could have accomplished had the USPS District provided postmaster training to enhance postal service. What will happen to our postal clerk? Will she be transferred and employed at another post office or will her job be terminated? She is a positive credit to USPS. Ending her employment is USPS's loss and is not fair.
6. Jonesville has had a post office since 1847. Ending the long standing service would be detrimental to the history of postal service in Texas and to the existence of Jonesville which is characterized with very significant historical events and sites which warrant preservation of community identity and this community's post office. Does USPS have a conscience? Does USPS want our small rural community to become a page in history?
7. Insufficient preliminary research on Jonesville, Jonesville's community, and Jonesville residents and businesses and inadequate preparation of financial facts relative to our post office are unacceptable. The injustice served on this community by inadequate preparation by USPS officials is unprofessional. Unfortunately, the very faulty information supplied by the Area Manager and District Manager was used as the basis for making a proposal for discontinuance without justification. This failure to act in a professional

Ref 5.6
p 6

manner should substantiate every possible positive consideration being given to Jonesville, Jonesville Post Office, and Jonesville Post Office postal clerk.

8. It does not make practical sense to close a post office which is being productive, contributing increases in revenue and post office box holders, and serving as the center foundation for the community and the community's longevity.

Friends of Jonesville Post Office has tried to fill the gaps in your research. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has provided interpretation for Spanish speaking/reading residents and post office box holders. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has sent out very costly supplementary questionnaires to assist with **accurate** descriptions of Jonesville, Jonesville residents, Jonesville businesses and community significance and need for our post office.. Friends of Jonesville Post Office sent out surveys to rural delivery residents as well as to post office box holders, businesses, and other organizations in the community. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has defended this community at a financial cost. Had your officials thoroughly done their jobs prior to the initial recommendation, expenses would have been greatly minimized. We are United States Citizens. We have been loyal and supportive postal patrons. Many of our ancestors were loyal and supportive postal patrons. We strongly oppose the inefficiencies displayed by USPS in this discontinuance process. We have been burdened with time and financial expenditures to make appropriate corrections in the records you publicly displayed and in proving our post office is needed in this small rural unincorporated community. **Our community will not passively surrender to unsubstantiated evidence and untruthful statements by USPS Officials?** We trust that you will respect our determination and our community need for Jonesville Post Office 75659.

Please do what is right and best for both the Jonesville community and the United States Postal Service. Continue Jonesville Post Office 75659. **USPS will benefit more by continuance of Jonesville Post Office than by discontinuance.** Our strengths are credits to Jonesville's community and to our postal clerk. After this very lengthy defense of our post office, it is somewhat difficult to maintain the same level of respect for USPS as we formerly held, but we are trying to be fair to those of you who did not create this travesty of justice. If a small rural post office has shown increases in revenue within your jurisdiction, save that post office. Discontinuing a revenue productive post office will only further tarnish USPS reputation. Save our post office. **Jonesville Post Office 75659 should be continued.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

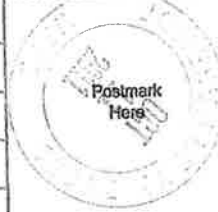
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PS Form 3800, August 2005

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1. Article Addressed to:
USPS District Discontinuance
Coordinator
951 W. Bethel Rd.
Coppell TX 75099-9631

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature [Signature] ☒ Agent ☐ Addressee
 B. Received by (Printed Name) PAUL C. EUBANKS C. Date of Delivery 10-12-11
 D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
☒ Certified Mail ☐ Express Mail
☐ Registered ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) ☐ Yes

2. Article Number
 (Transfer from service label)

7007 2560 0000 7310 2055

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

Ref 5.7

August 14, 2011

Mr. Frank Richards
Longview Post Office
2336 S. Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Dear Mr. Richards,

This letter has been sent to you to request information and seek support regarding Jonesville Post Office 75659 which was listed among other post offices across the country on July 27th for evaluation for possible closure. I live in Jonesville and am disheartened by this news and potential demise of our community. Would you please answer some very basic questions for me about the elimination process. I have extensively researched online about the Postal Regulatory Commission, the United States Postal Service, and the process defined in various documents pertaining to the closure evaluative process, and I have read many such documents. My questions need more specific answers which I believe you might be able to answer and provide help.

First of all, why was Jonesville Post Office 75659 put on that list? As you are well aware, Jonesville has had a post office since 1847. That represents 164 years of service to this community....an incredible feat! Jonesville's first postmaster, John C. Dunn, was named postmaster on January 18, 1847. Jonesville has had a post office since that time...throughout nationwide difficulties such as the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, etc. Jonesville had a post office before Elysian Fields (1848), Waskom (1850), Scottsville (1869), and Karnack (1898). What specific reason or reasons was Jonesville selected to be evaluated?

Was it due to Jonesville being a small community?

Was it due to Waskom building its post office only five miles from Jonesville's?

Was it due to operational costs such as lease fees and utilities?

Was it due to costs related to our postal clerk's salary?

Was it due to some other reason and if so, what other reason or reasons?

The Jonesville Post Office used to be housed inside my family's country store, T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store. My Aunt Emma Arrant Vaughan was postmaster for years. Harry Reasoner from CBS "60 minutes" interviewed my aunt about the importance of rural post offices to communities such as Jonesville. That television news broadcast created much interest in small post office with such longevity. When my aunt retired, Reba Nolan (she married Lloyd Burkhalter later) was named postmaster. Reba pushed for a better facility which had more modern heating, cooling, and restroom accommodations and she pushed for more mail boxes to be installed. The United States Postal Service evidently did not have the funds to build a more suitable facility so my cousin Sammy Vaughan (oilman who founded Winchester Oil and Westchester Gas

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now known under the name of EXCO-BG) offered to construct a facility specifically for postal service. He convinced some of our Vaughan family and all of the Smith family to donate lands for that purpose. My father, Thomas Worth Vaughan, was the only family member/landowner who did not legally donate his interest in the surface upon which the post office now sits. He was happy to have a post office in Jonesville, but he disagreed with Sammy's other intentions. Currently, the United States Postal Service pays lease fees to Kim Scrivener, Manager of The Jonesville Museum and Sammy Vaughan's daughter. Thomas Worth Vaughan's heirs have never received any rental for use of his interests in the land, nor have his heirs wanted to impose such fees on a much needed community service such as the Jonesville Post Office. When the new post office building was completed, Postmaster Reba Nolan moved the office from our store to the new building where business has been conducted ever since.

Interestingly, on Friday, ~~July~~^{AUGUST} 14th, I received an email from Kim Scrivener stating that she/The Jonesville Museum had called the United States Postal Service rental agent and offered to greatly reduce the lease in order to be of assistance in keeping the Jonesville Post Office 75659 open. The reply she received from that person seemed to indicate that current lease fees weren't part of the problem. Kim maintains that she will greatly reduce the monthly lease amount. So if the lease fee is not what contributed to the decision to possibly close Jonesville Post Office 75659, what is?

The person that Kim Scrivener spoke to suggested that the postal service might want to put post office mail boxes at our store, create a Village post office, and charge our store fees for doing it. How funny is that request given the history of the Jonesville Post Office 75659 being at our store prior to the postal service needing a better facility which was provided by my cousin and Vaughan and Smith family members?

Also on Friday, August 14th, one of my sisters received a call from some United States Postal Service representative named Allison. That person wanted our store to host a community meeting on August 27th at 2:30 in the afternoon. My sister stated that our old country store has NO air conditioning. If the United States Postal Service truly wants to entertain and host a community meeting with a good attendance, why in the world would one of the hottest months of the year, hottest times of record, hottest part of the day be selected for such meeting? That is inappropriate. My sister did not give a response because she is only one of our store's owners and the suggested time would interfere with our regular business hours. She contacted me about it. Before my family will consider an appropriate time for a meeting, please try to answer the questions I've asked. I will happily share those answers with other store owners.

Finally, please support keeping the Jonesville Post Office 75659 in its current location and with its current level of service to the community. Reduction of hours of service, increased mail box rental fees, reduced facility lease fees would not cause financial burdens at all. Those actions would continue the longevity of postal service business in our community. Please help keep our Jonesville Post Office 75659 open.

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P 3

I have attached a brief history of our post office to this request for help. Any help you can render will be most appreciated by me, my family, and this community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan

P. O. Box 129

Jonesville TX 75659

leliabwb@shreve.net 903 687-3403

U.S. Postal Service™
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For delivery information visit our Website at www.usps.com

OFFICIAL USE

Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 1010

Postmark Here

Sent To Frank Richards, Manager A.D.
 Street, Apt. No.,
 or PO Box No. USPO LONGVIEW
2336 S. Mobberly Ave
 City, State, ZIP+4 Longview TX 75602

PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions

Ref 5.7
 p 4

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 	<p>A. Signature <u>[Signature]</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee</p> <p>B. Received by (Printed Name) <u>IRB-CK</u> C. Date of Delivery <u>9-13-11</u></p> <p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <p><u>Frank Richards</u> <u>Manager of Area Operations</u> <u>Longview Post Office</u> <u>2336 S. Mobberly Ave.</u> <u>Longview TX 75602</u></p>	<p>3. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.</p> <p>4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>
<p>2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)</p>	<p>7007 2560 0000 7310 1959</p>

PS Form 3811, February 2004

Domestic Return Receipt

102595-02-M-1540

Ref 5.8

September 10, 2011

Frank Richards
Manager of Area Operations
Longview Post Office
2336 S. Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Dear Frank,

I met you in Jonesville, Texas at the Jonesville Post Office 75659 on August 27th after the community meeting about the proposal to discontinue our post office. I suspect that you and Allison Rizan must have been shocked and overwhelmed by the attendance at that meeting. Residents of this small, rural, unincorporated, and very spread out community are very displeased with the proposal for discontinuance and the content in the financial report and community description which bears your signature and the signature of Victor Benavides and in which those signatures have recommended our post office to be discontinued and our zip code to be taken away forever. The community description provided in that report which bears your signature is very shallow, incomplete, and full of very significant errors. Residents have repeatedly asked "where did he get that information." How do I answer that question? I now must ask "Where did you get that information? Was someone else responsible?"

There are so many errors in the official USPS report that you signed. Review of the statements with truthful knowledge of Jonesville would lead any responsible researcher to wonder if someone intentionally misrepresented this very strong community or perhaps just grasped things from thin air which would produce a quicker closure to a very historic and significant post office. I certainly hope that the report sent to our post office and put on display for public review was an error in judgment on the part of the person or persons who prepared it for you or who provided faulty information for the purposes of your preparation of the report. Either way, you can and should make every attempt to correct such errors and reverse your decision relative to discontinuance of our post office.

Since the community meeting, residents have had to prove the worthy existence of USPS Jonesville Post Office 75659. We have had to prove to the district that there are legitimate businesses in this community. The list contains names of businesses, organizations, foundations, and other entities which get their mail at Jonesville Post office 75659. We have submitted photos to the district office and have asked each and every business, whether large or small, to submit verification of existence. The fact that we are having to substantiate and prove our community's worth, existence, and description is very frustrating, time consuming, and stressful for all residents and businesses. Our true community characteristics could easily have been substantiated by USPS if we had been asked prior to the proposal for discontinuance. We just do not understand why such a faulty report was created and submitted as if factual. We can not imagine how any USPS official would have used such inaccurate information about

a 164 year old community to establish grounds for discontinuance of its much needed and patronized post office. I certainly hope that if your recommendation for discontinuance of our post office and elimination of our zip code was based even in the slightest manner on the community description that was represented in the official report, that you will reverse your decision immediately. We are all human. We make mistakes. Mistakes can be corrected and should be corrected. Mistakes which may have resulted in faulty decisions as serious as those about discontinuance must be rectified and should be rectified promptly. Jonesville residents and businesses have been subjected to enough stress over the possible discontinuance of our post office. We have suffered needless impositions to try to prove our worth.

Frank, you hold the future and fate of Jonesville in your hands. You are the person and the USPS official who made the initial recommendation to discontinue our post office. Your signature is on display as the individual who made judgement on our post office and on our community. Your signature acknowledges that your decision was based on the information in the report that is on public display in our post office. Your proposal was submitted to Victor Benavides who on August 4, 2011 was District Manager. His signature is on display in our post office along with yours, but he evidently is either on sick leave or no longer employed by USPS. You, your signature, and documents which bear your signature are being challenged by our community because it was your action as USPS Area Manager of Operations which has caused the need for our time consuming responses in defense of the Jonesville community and Jonesville Post Office 75659. When you stood in our post office on August 27th, most residents had not read the official report because it was sent to our post office at the end of the day on August 23rd and was not available for review until the morning of August 24th. Residents are now realizing that you and the USPS District are responsible for the erroneous content in that report. Jonesville residents are for the most part very reasonable and practical citizens and would certainly forgive mistakes made relative to misrepresentation of our community if corrected and if proper consideration were given to our community and to continuance of Jonesville Post Office and our zip code 75659.

Jonesville residents do not understand why workload alone could mandate closure of a rural post office which has shown an increase in revenue when there is and has been a valid solution for improving workload. As stated before, reduction in hours of operation and elimination of Saturday service/delivery would improve the workload consideration. While mail volume has declined in Jonesville, mail volume has declined across the country and not just in Jonesville. Even with the declines in mail volume, Jonesville Post Office has shown a 59 % increase in revenue over the past three years. There is an easy way to solve the workload problem. Why has USPS not let that happen? In the discussions at our community meeting on the 27th, you replied to a resident's question by saying "Yes" when that resident asked if our post office was losing money. Our post office has shown increases in revenues and mail box rentals. Our postal clerk is only paid hourly wages and not the high cost benefits that have greatly contributed to overall USPS financial demise. The lease rental 50% reduction offer still stands even though Linda Welch has replied that USPS is not considering renegotiation of leases for post offices which are being considered for discontinuance. She further stated that the

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p 3

Jonesville Post Office lease contract does not expire until 2015. Any contract can legally be renegotiated if there is need for renegotiation or desire for such. If USPS does not continue Jonesville Post Office 75659, USPS will have to continue to pay the full lease fees for each year remaining in the contract. How can USPS afford to pay full lease fees on buildings that no longer render postal service? Seems as if discontinuing Jonesville's post office will create an additional financial burden on USPS rather than to be of help. I am sure you are aware of the Congressional mandate which protects small rural post offices from being discontinued solely on the basis of not being self-sustaining. Jonesville Post Office could easily be self-sustaining if given a chance and if USPS will consider renegotiation of the lease with the lease fee reduction. Reduction of hours of operation, increased mail box rental fees, and elimination of Saturday service are all viable solutions. Why not reverse your recommendation for discontinuance? How many post offices within your jurisdiction can accurately say that there has been an increase in revenue? How many small rural post offices in this area have shown increases in revenues and increases in mail box rentals? Jonesville Post Office 75659 warrants reconsideration and your support for continuance.

In an effort to help you realize our worth, I have enclosed a few basic facts about this community. There are currently various businesses, foundations, organizations, and entities which receive mail at the Jonesville Post Office 75659 rather than the one business you and the district reported in the official document on display in the post office. There are currently 127 post office box holders at the post office in Jonesville rather than the 111 your signature conveyed in the report. The official post office report on file for public display is outdated. I sincerely hope that you will seriously consider reversing your recommendation for discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office and 75659. The negative impacts that would be imposed on residents and businesses in Jonesville far outweigh any possible gain to USPS. If Jonesville, Texas loses its zip code, the historic identity and location of this community will be lost forever and severed from current mapping location technologies. That fact will severely impact businesses in Jonesville. Explain to me how it would not be impactful!

How did you determine that Jonesville's zip code should be alleviated? There are very few Waskom rural route mail delivery residents in Jonesville as compared to Jonesville residents with post office boxes. Waskom Post Office has evidently actively sought rural mail box customers in our community. How did that happen? Why did that happen? I know from personal experience that a Waskom rural carrier tried to impose rural delivery on me for when I inherited my father's home, I installed a newspaper box at my driveway specifically for newspaper delivery and which box was identified as a newspaper only delivery box. Waskom's rural carrier left a note advising me that I was required to fill out a form and submit to Waskom Post Office for mail delivery.. I did not follow the rural carrier's mandate at all. I resented the fact that Waskom tried to impose rural delivery on me and that Waskom had interfered with newspaper delivery. Now I am wondering if Jonesville residents who are receiving mail delivery by rural carrier were subjected to the same degree of insistence and pressure??? Our County Commissioner is very concerned about Jonesville and the potential loss of identity. I'm sure that he is also concerned that Waskom Post Office would actively entered our

Ref 5.8
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community in pursuit of customers in such manner. Did you know that there are five Jonesville residents who receive their mail through Waskom Post Office rural delivery who live in close proximity to the Jonesville Post Office? Some are within walking distance of the post office. I know of no reason why any of those residents require rural delivery. Does USPS condone a neighboring post office to actively seek residential customers from unincorporated areas? Two of those five rural delivery customers in Jonesville live to the West of our post office. Waskom is five miles to the east of Jonesville. Why and how did that happen? The majority of Jonesville residents support our post office.

Jonesville residents are very dedicated to our post office and community. Discontinuing our post office would not significantly help the United States Postal Service's financial status. Maintain those rural post offices which have shown increases in revenue during times when post offices all across the country have shown declines. Frank, you seem like a prudent, professional, and reasonable USPS official. Do what is right in this situation. Submit a corrected proposal that Jonesville Post Office be continued. If proposed for discontinuance, Jonesville will strongly appeal. An appeal will necessitate consideration of all facts relative to the initial recommendation and the basis from which your recommendation emerged. Jonesville Post Office 75659 should be continued and proposing otherwise will subject everyone involved to long term unnecessary stress.

Should you need further proof about our community, our need for Jonesville Post Office 75659, number of burglaries and thefts in Jonesville, or any other factor which pertains to residents' hesitancy to be submissive to Waskom Post Office's need, don't hesitate to contact me. My family has lived in Jonesville since the 1880's. I have a good sense of community, a good sense of what is needed, and a good sense about how our community has been misrepresented and disrespected in the description of our community in the displayed official written report. I have been blessed with higher education which enables me to research, consider, and speak for my neighbors and my community. Do what is ethically right, Frank. Do what is best for Jonesville and the USPS. Acknowledge that you greatly underestimated Jonesville and that the report which holds your signature and upon which you based your initial recommendation for discontinuance is insufficient. By reversing your decision, you will be correcting a very unfortunate situation for all parties concerned and you will be improving the widely held public attitude toward the United States Postal Service. If I did not care about USPS, would I even really bother to submit such letters in support of Jonesville Post Office 75659?

Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

7007 2560 0000 7310 4967

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Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 559



Sent to **FRANK RICHARDS**
 Street, Apt. No.,
 or PO Box No. **2336 S. MOBBERLY AVE**
 City, State, ZIP+4® **CONGVIEW TX 75602**
 PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions

Ref 5.8
 P5

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

FRANK RICHARDS
CONGVIEW POST OFFICE
2336 S. MOBBERLY AVE
CONGVIEW TX
75602

2. Article Number
 (Transfer from service label)

7007 2560 0000 7310 4967

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature  ☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) **Frank L. Richards** C. Date of Delivery **8-16-11**

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type
☒ Certified Mail ☐ Express Mail
☐ Registered ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) ☐ Yes

Ref 5.9

September 10, 2011

Frank Richards
Manager of Area Operations
Longview Post Office
2336 S. Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Copy Sent to District Office
in Coppell

Dear Frank,

I met you in Jonesville, Texas at the Jonesville Post Office 75659 on August 27th after the community meeting about the proposal to discontinue our post office. I suspect that you and Allison Rizan must have been shocked and overwhelmed by the attendance at that meeting. Residents of this small, rural, unincorporated, and very spread out community are very displeased with the proposal for discontinuance and the content in the financial report and community description which bears your signature and the signature of Victor Benavides and in which those signatures have recommended our post office to be discontinued and our zip code to be taken away forever. The community description provided in that report which bears your signature is very shallow, incomplete, and full of very significant errors. Residents have repeatedly asked "where did he get that information." How do I answer that question? I now must ask "Where did you get that information? Was someone else responsible?"

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Ref 5.9
p 4

community in pursuit of customers in such manner. Did you know that there are five Jonesville residents who receive their mail through Waskom Post Office rural delivery who live in close proximity to the Jonesville Post Office? Some are within walking distance of the post office. I know of no reason why any of those residents require rural delivery. Does USPS condone a neighboring post office to actively seek residential customers from unincorporated areas? Two of those five rural delivery customers in Jonesville live to the West of our post office. Waskom is five miles to the east of Jonesville. Why and how did that happen? The majority of Jonesville residents support our post office.

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Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

Ref 5.9
P 5

7007 2560 0000 7310 1942

U.S. Postal Service™ CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)	
For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com	
OFFICIAL USE	
Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 10.10
Sent To <u>Frank Richards Manager P.O. Oper.</u>	
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No. <u>951 W Bethel Rd</u>	
City, State, ZIP+4 <u>Coppell TX 75099-9998</u>	
PS Form 3830, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions	

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION		COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.		A. Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Debbie Tisdale</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee	
1. Article Addressed to: <u>Frank Richards</u> <u>Manager of Po Operations</u> <u>951 W. Bethel Rd.</u> <u>Coppell TX 75099-9998</u>		B. Received by (Printed Name) <u>Debbie Tisdale</u>	
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)		C. Date of Delivery <u>9-14-11</u>	
		D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		3. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.	
		4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	

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Ref 5.10

September 22, 2011

Timothy J. Vierling
District Manager
Dallas Customer Service and Sales
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9998

Dear Mr. Vierling,

Are you USPS Dallas District Manager of Customer Service and Sales? Since late July of this year, I have been trying to communicate with the Dallas District Manager, but have had great difficulty in ascertaining who that person is. Victor Benavides formerly held that position for his signature is legally attached to the Proposal for Discontinuance of the Jonesville Post Office 75659 along with Area Manager Frank Richard's signature in the Jonesville Post Office within a document put on display on August 24th..

Prior to receiving an opportunity to see Mr. Benavides's name on that legal document, I had mailed letters requesting continuance of Jonesville, Texas 75659 not only just for continuance of the post office which was on the list for being studied, but also for the zip code being continued regardless of the final decision about discontinuance made by USPS officials. I sent various letters addressed to the District Manager in the Coppell office, the first of which was mailed on August 30, 2011. Someone named N M White signed for that first letter and for a second letter mailed to the same address. Since I did not receive a specific reply to either of those first two letters nor to a third Express Mail delivery, I have not been certain that mail was indeed received by the person in the District Manager's position.

Attempts to find the District Manager's name did not produce positive results. Finally, an individual from NAPUS disclosed to me that Mr. Benavides was on sick leave. So who has really been getting, reading, processing, and answering my letters? I think my concern is very legitimate given the circumstances surrounding the possible discontinuance of my rural community's post office. Over the last few days, I have received letters from you, but which you have not signed. The letters supposedly written by you were signed by someone named Brenda Baugh.

With the background mentioned in the previous three paragraphs, have you received, read, and responded to my letters of concern or has someone else been intercepting my letters prior to you receiving them? I want to be certain that the District Manager has been receiving my letters and that the District Manager has been responding. If not, then there is great likelihood that a citizen's concerns have been ignored, rejected, redirected, or intercepted. I don't think any prudent professional would approve of such mishandling, and I doubt that the United States Postal Service would approve of that either. Please let me know if you have received my previous letters and if for some reason you have been incapable of signing your own letters. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to share significant facts and information regarding the faulty basis upon

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which the Area Manager and former District Manager recommended our post office for discontinuance. Actions on the part of those two USPS officials have unfortunately negatively impacted our community and have subjected Jonesville residents to undue, needless stress. It is very obvious that the Area Manager did not know true facts about our community prior to making a recommendation. It is also very obvious that the Area Manager did not have a good factual understanding of the revenues generated in our post office prior to making recommendation that it be discontinued. It is even more unfortunate and frustrating that former District Manager Victor Benavides signed Area Manager's faulty report which was used as basis for the recommendation.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter so that I will know to whom to address very serious concerns other than those being sent to Linda J. Welch, Deborah Ebera and Allison Rizan. I look forward to hearing from you, and you do not need to reiterate to me in your response that USPS is having financial difficulties and that the District has not made its final decision about discontinuance of Jonesville's post office. I am fully aware of the difficulties confronting USPS and that eliminating small rural post offices will not improve the nationwide financial status of the United States Postal Service.

A Concerned Citizen and Resident of Jonesville, Texas 75659,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Ref 5.10
P3

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TIMOTHY J. VIERLING DIST. MANAGER	
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.	
951 W. BETHEL RD.	
City, State, ZIP+4	
COPPELL TX	75099-9998
PS Form 3800, August 2006	
See Reverse for Instructions	

Ref 5.11

August 15, 2011

Dallas District Manager
Customer Service & Sales
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099-9998

Dear District Manager of Customer Service and Sales,

This letter represents our Jonesville, Texas community's request to keep 75659 and Jonesville as our address should if for some reason yet unknown to us the United States Postal Service should decide to discontinue our post office. I have been notified by Allison Rizan that she is holding a community meeting in our post office on August 27th. In my phone conversation with Allison, she indicated that she was evaluating our post office, but a final decision had not yet been made to discontinue our post office. We want to be certain that whatever she decides, Jonesville and 75659 will continue to be our address. Jonesville has had postal service since 1847. We strongly desire to remain an identifiable community with our 75659 zip code. Please support our efforts to maintain this identity regardless of what decision the District Discontinuance Coordinator decides/concludes. We think we have a solid case for remaining open due to our strong support, increased revenues, and an offer last week to greatly reduce the monthly lease amount by the lessor. Keep Jonesville 75659 serving the community as is has for so many years.

Thank you,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403

c. Postmaster General, Patrick R. Donahoe

September 14, 2011

Ref 5.12

Deborah,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Allison Rizan dated September 14, 2011 in response to a letter received from her on September 13th. I have attached a copy of her letter to me so that you have full disclosure and understanding. I have also attached a copy of the letter I received from Frank Richards which was an official reply to my responses on the USPS community questionnaire. It is very interesting that he mentioned "vacancy in a small post office" when he had not previously brought up that rationale in discussions relative to reasons why Jonesville Post Office 75659 was being considered for discontinuance. I have supplied copies of other communications provided by Frank Richards which reflect contradictory revenue statements and rationale for discontinuance.

I am truly concerned about the public view of the United States Postal Service. Residents in Jonesville are disheartened, confused, upset by inappropriate information about Jonesville having been submitted by Area Manager Frank Richards, and concerned about the potential loss of a much needed rural post office....one which has shown an increase in revenue of 59 % over the past few years, an increase in post office box rentals this year from 111 to 127, community support for reduction in the daily hours of operation, community support for elimination of Saturday service, and a community which is aware that the lessor made a significant offer to reduce the lease rental fee by fifty percent on August 12, 2011. Those factors could conceivably make Jonesville Post Office 75659 a self-sustaining post office and one which serves a very wide spread rural community which is within the purposes supported by Rule 39.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed.D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

Allison Rizan
CSA-OPS
Dallas District
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75009-9631

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Dear Allison,

In response to your letter which I received on the morning of September 13, 2011, I think you must be somewhat confused for I have never written a letter to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent reduction of the Jonesville Post Office nor have I ever spoken to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent of the Jonesville Post Office. Furthermore, I have never negotiated lease rental reduction for any post office throughout my entire lifetime. You have evidently confused me with someone else.

While I was provided a copy of a letter sent on August 22, 2011 to a Mr. Bill McMurry, the copy was provided for my documentation file relative the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659 and its unfortunate recommendation/proposal for discontinuance. On September 12, 2011, a person named John Logan called and represented himself as the real estate agent for the United States Postal Service. I was not at home at the time because I was with my timber consultant assessing damage to my family's timber property which was destroyed in a wildfire here in Harrison County on September 11, 2011. When I returned home, I retrieved a message from Mr. Logan and returned his call. He wanted to discuss renegotiating the lease rental fee reduction offer which I had made, but which I made clear to him that I had not made and that he had contacted the incorrect person. He stated that he had my name and wanted to confirm the accuracy of the terms in the contract as written. I assured him that he had the incorrect person and that I was not the lessor. I told him that The Jonesville Museum was lessor of the building which houses Jonesville Post Office 75659.

I further advised him that in a letter dated September 2, 2011 from Linda J. Welch, Vice President, Southwest Area Operations of the United States Postal Service, I had been advised that "There are two reasons the USPS real estate specialist did not agree to renegotiate the lease terms: (1) The current term does not expire until 2015 and we are still working on leases for 2011 to 2013, and, (2) Because this facility is identified on the Post Office discontinuance study list, until all the studies have been completed we are very careful not to enter into a new lease contract." Mr. Logan indicated that his negotiation had nothing to do with what Linda Welch had written to me, that it was totally unrelated, and that he wanted to make arrangements to accept the offer so that USPS would not be shown to lose money by not accepting an offer too good to not accept. He asked for the name of the person to contact, and I was somewhat shocked that if he had a copy of the written confirmation of the offer from The Jonesville Museum manager that he would not have seen the manager's name on the signature line on the copy he had. I told him he needed to contact Kim Vaughan Scrivener. He wanted her number, but I had just walked into my house from seeing the devastation created by wildfire which had destroyed a significantly large tract of timber belonging to me and my

family. I told him that I would have to find the number. I also had to contact family members about the timber loss and about our other tract which was most likely lost but which the timber consultant and I could not access due to the fire still burning. I told Mr. Logan that I would find Kim Vaughan Scrivener's phone number and call her about it. I did call Kim and gave her the message.

Allison, how could the district office not know the name of the lessor or to whom such a call should be made? That truly concerns me and should be of concern to those who serve in supervisory positions within USPS. I believe the United States Postal Service has had a contractual relationship with The Jonesville Museum for over twenty years, has paid lease rental fees for that long, has sent lease rental fees to Kim Vaughan Scrivener as manager of The Jonesville Museum for that long, evidently had a phone call and offer from Kim Vaughan Scrivener on August 12, 2011, and received a letter dated August 22, 2011 which contained a written restatement of the verbal offer for the reduction of rent by fifty percent. I am not a member, trustee, representative, agent, or any other type of decision maker for The Jonesville Museum nor am I the lessor. Hopefully, Mr. Logan advised you of this fact. Your letter stated that "the Real Estate Department will notify you when they have made their decision."

I hope that fact gathering has proceeded properly, that truthful facts have now been acknowledged and documented for the purposes of being considered rather than the misinformation and various errors in the community description provided and signed by Area Manager Frank Richards in the official document on display in the Jonesville Post Office, and that district officials will realize the worth of Jonesville Post Office 75659 being continued rather than discontinued. This very necessary defense of Jonesville Post Office and the rebuttal required to assert the truth is very time consuming, very costly, and very stressful for a community which is also suffering wildfires and continued drought conditions which make the fire danger even more extreme.

If the district has its mind made up that Jonesville's post office will be discontinued, why put us through so much additional stress? Jonesville residents and businesses need the post office. Can USPS honestly state that there would be no adverse impact on the businesses in Jonesville? The most recent letter from Frank Richards in response to comments submitted on the questionnaire stated that "Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely effected." Allison, Jonesville Post Office 75659 was not suspended. Why in the world would such an inappropriate answer be given to any resident who made comments on a questionnaire provided by USPS? Frank's letter to me dated September 9, 2011 mentioned "suspension" more than once. If letters were sent to other Jonesville residents and businesses with content similar to what was in mine, the United States Postal Service and the District should be embarrassed. I do understand how stressful your job must be in ascertaining true facts and considerations, but official USPS responses which reference "since suspension of service" when service has not been suspended are inappropriate. I am embarrassed for the United States Postal Service because such action on the part of District officials

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is disgraceful and demeaning to USPS which formerly was highly respected and revered. Perhaps it was a mistake in judgment on the part of someone given the task to assign an answer/statement to a resident's question or comment, but it does not offer any relative degree of support for citizen and community respect for the United States Postal Service. The United States Postal Service is having a difficult time as it is without being so misrepresented by inappropriate responses and actions.

I am certain that it must be very difficult on you as District Discontinuance Coordinator, but perhaps you have gained experience and knowledge throughout this process which will make you a more sensitive and responsive evaluator. Evaluation is not an easy task. Evaluation requires thorough fact finding, complete data gathering, very precise interpretation of facts and data, complete consideration of all factors, documentation, and appropriate reporting. Good luck with the remainder of the discontinuance process. If you need additional supportive information about Jonesville or our Jonesville community, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

cc. Deborah Ebera
Linda J. Welch

Ref 5.12

P5

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION		COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 		A. Signature <i>Deborah L. Ebera</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee	
1. Article Addressed to: DEBORAH EBERRA MGR CONSUMER AFFAIRS USPS 951 W. BETHEL RD COPPELL TX 75099-9631		B. Received by (Printed Name) DEBORAH L. EBERRA	
		C. Date of Delivery 9-19-11	
		D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		3. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.	
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)		4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
		7007 2560 0000 7310 1973	
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PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions	

Ref 5.13

August 18, 2011

Dear District Manager of Customer Service and Sales,

I previously elected to send this identical letter to you through Express Mail, but I want to make sure that you in fact received it in a timely manner. It has been very difficult finding to whom to write other than the designated Manager of Post Office Operations, Frank Richards, and the District Discontinuance Coordinator, Allison Rizan. I am very frustrated with the suggested possible closure of the Jonesville Texas Post Office 75659. The District Discontinuance Coordinator and Manager of Post Office Operations evidently did not send me a community notice or questionnaire to complete or perhaps delivery of my questionnaire has been delayed for some other reason. I have enclosed a copy of my original letter to you because in my letter to your office, I made formal request that Jonesville Texas 75659 remain in our community address if for some reason, your officers and the United States Postal Service should decide to close our post office. If we lose our Jonesville Texas 75659 identity, we will suffer and it will be unnecessarily devastating to the community residents and our other major and historical store front business in Jonesville, T. C. Lindsey & Company, which also has been in operation since 1847.

Please preserve the dignity and identity of Jonesville, Texas 75659 and continue our post office. We want to keep Jonesville, Texas 75659 in our address as we have for years. Don't take our identity away from us, please.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Ref 5.14

September 12, 2011
Linda J. Welch
Vice President, Southwest Area Operations
United States Postal Service
P.O. Box 224748
Dallas TX 75222-4748

Dear Ms. Welch,

Thank you for your reply to my letter you received on August 26, 2011 regarding the discontinuance study for the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659. When I received your response, I initially thought that there obviously was no need in replying to your letter of September 2, 2011, but now I feel that you must be made aware of facts pertaining to the actual responses, statements, and information used in the feasibility study of Jonesville's post office. I do not intend to forward a copy of this letter. It is very clear to me that you and your office hold much responsibility and authority in the discontinuance process and that those USPS officials within your jurisdiction are just trying to fulfill the obligations placed upon them. It must be difficult for you and for them, but there is an obligation to perform duties with care and diligence and area and district officials have not adequately prepared and/or presented sufficient evidence that Jonesville Post Office 75659 warrants discontinuance. Please do not pass judgment prematurely on this letter. I am truly concerned for the negative public image the USPS is fostering.

You indicated to me that 111 PO box holders were notified by letters and that recipients should have received those letters by August 18. There were more PO box holders in Jonesville on August 17th. I think the number of box holders that day was 123, but only USPS officials may peruse the official daily records which should have been accessible prior to sending out notification letters and questionnaires. Some residents and business interests did not receive their letter of notification until August 22nd. If a five to seven-day notification period is the standard and if USPS can access the current number of PO box rentals in a rural post office, then why were insufficient numbers of letters provided to Jonesville post office box holders on August 18th?

Secondly, you mentioned that "The meeting was also publicized through the local news media." The only official USPS news media release that I could find was issued on August 28, 2011. That was the day after our Jonesville, Texas 75659 community meeting which was held at 2:30 pm on August 27, 2011. The reason we had such a large crowd in attendance was because we, Friends of Jonesville Post Office, mailed letters to Jonesville post office box holders in an effort to seek attendance at such an important meeting and also because Jonesville residents do not want to lose their post office and their zip code. What other official news media releases did USPS provide that would have announced to Jonesville residents and the surrounding community that there would be a meeting on August 27th? The USPS release of August 28th is available for review online.

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Resident post office box holders are wanting to maintain their address identification in Jonesville, Texas 75659. Loss of zip code identity can be a serious threat to survival of unincorporated communities such as ours. There are fewer Jonesville residents who receive rural mail delivery from Waskom Post Office than there are Jonesville post office box holders. Why should the majority of residents be inconvenienced with zip code changes as opposed to making the few rural mail delivery residents in Jonesville change their zip code to 75659? Area Manager Frank Richards and District Manager Victor Benavides recommended elimination of 75659 on August 4th. Why so very early in the discontinuance process? Was there some underlying reason why Mr. Richards favored Waskom Post Office? It appears that zip codes can be sustained and maintained if final decisions are made to discontinue post offices. Residents were shocked that area and district USPS officials had recommended elimination of 75659 on August 4, 2011 prior to seeking input from the community which could be impacted by loss of the community's zip code identity....an identity which has been in existence for 48 years. This concern is even further supported by the insufficient information used as basis for such decision having been made by Mr. Richards and Mr. Benavides.

Ms. Welch, you obviously must be a very reasonable and practical person, otherwise you would not be in such an important position within the United States Postal Service. Years ago, I received rural mail delivery from a roadside mail box. I had to replace the mail box several times due to vandalism. I had important mail lost/stolen from my box. Theft is a very serious concern for rural mail delivery residents, especially when multiple digit payments and checks are placed in an unattended mail box, locked or unlocked. It is a well known fact throughout this oil/gas rich area in Jonesville that many of our residents are oil and gas royalty owners and that large check sums are delivered by mail to some residents each month. Jonesville residents use post office boxes for safety and security reasons. Jonesville has had 5 burglaries within the last 6 months. Allison Rizan was provided a copy of the message sent to me from our Harrison County Sheriff's Department which verifies that fact. Last year, T. C. Lindsey & Company suffered one break-in and theft from a storage building, one theft of an antique pump on display, theft of the U. S. Flag and destruction of the rope and hosting material, and burglary/theft from a rental house. Our Jonesville Post Office had its flag stolen. The Hamby family had vehicles burglarized and theft of contents. Within the last ten years, T. C. Lindsey and Company suffered an attempted burglary and major damage to its door. The Kyle home suffered an attempted burglary. The Ferrell's were attacked by intruders who wanted money. I had all of my workshop tools stolen from my garage. There are other factual reports from Jonesville residents about thefts and burglaries. Crimes such as theft and burglary in this very spread out rural community are very serious and real risks. We do not have uniformed officers in our area all of the time. Harrison County is a large area. While locked mail boxes are on the market, if a criminal wants to break through a lock, a criminal who wants to steal valuable content such as dividend, royalty, social security checks, or useful personal identity will break in....it's happened in our homes and businesses. It certainly is a real risk to a mail box left unattended on the roadside whether locked or not. If you have not lived in a rural area and if you have not had an unattended rural delivery mail box by the road, you might not understand the real risk. I am fully aware that lockable mail boxes can be

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purchased and placed on roadsides, but the real truth is that doing so is no insurance that contents will be safe and secure. District officials requested only MAIL THEFT information in our zip code 75659. We asked for full disclosure of burglary and thefts in Jonesville, and I forwarded a copy to Allison Rizan. When the majority of residents in a community utilize rented post office boxes, there is greater security and safety for mail delivery.

In gathering data to submit to Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator, we have identified several entities, businesses, foundations, and organizations in Jonesville area which are post office patrons and two churches situated on properties that historically have always been in Jonesville. The Financial Statement and community description signed by USPS Area Manager Frank Richards and put on display in the Jonesville Post Office for public review during hours of operation, indicated that there was only one business in Jonesville. Why? Why did he not conduct preliminary factual research about the Jonesville community prior to recommending discontinuance and loss of zip code? District Manager Victor Benavides signed the same document. I have attached a list of other businesses and entities.

The official record on display for public review shows that the community is comprised by 50% retirees and 50% commuters. Where did that inappropriate and false description originate? I don't fit into either category, nor do many other residents who live and work in Jonesville. How could a representative of the USPS carelessly submit false data which could result in an unfair evaluation of a community and in this situation where a rural community could lose its post office which has been very much a part of the community for 164 years? Residents are appalled that USPS has presented such a shallow description of Jonesville. Did USPS officials seek accurate data or seek input from the community prior to subjecting this community to the stress of potential discontinuance? We do not understand.

My involvement in this discontinuance process originated because Allison Rizan contacted my sister by phone and asked if the community meeting could be held in my family's T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store. My sister explained that we did not have air conditioning, that it was very hot in the afternoon, that she would have to get approval from other owners, and that she would be out of town when Allison wanted to have the meeting. My sister gave me Allison's phone number, and I called to suggest a better time due to the 109 degree temperatures that we had been having in mid-afternoon in August. When Allison returned my call, she told me that the meeting had been set for 2:30 pm on Saturday, August 27th in the post office lobby and could not be changed. Other than the physicians who reside in Jonesville who are post office box holders, I have achieved possibly the highest degree in education of other residents. I also live across the road from the Jonesville Post Office 75659 and from our store, T.C. Lindsey & Company. Other post office box holders and business interests are spread out all over the community...some as far away as 8 miles from our post office. My location, my education, my background, my family history in Jonesville since the 1880's, and my property ownership in Jonesville to the north, south, east, and west of our post office have all put me in a position of leadership in the effort to save Jonesville

Post Office 75659...not by choice as much as by need and commitment to the survival of this historic community and its postal service. Evaluation and research are personal strengths which I could not ignore in Jonesville's pursuit to overcome the discontinuance recommendation. That is how I became involved with sending concerns, comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism relative to the fate of Jonesville Post Office 75659. My efforts have been in good faith and from sincere concern.

My intentions are not to be negative about USPS at all. My grandfather was a rural carrier in Jonesville. My aunt was postmaster in Jonesville for 35 years. I have always been loyal to USPS and would not have written to you if USPS area and district officials had been fair, honest and respectful of this community and our need for this post office. We all understand that USPS has significant financial troubles at this time which necessarily require change. It just is very difficult to understand why our rural community has been misrepresented in the official records, why our rural post office which has shown a 59% increase in revenue over the past three years was recommended for discontinuance, why many questions remain unanswered, why contradictory replies have been given by area and district officials about why our post office is being studied for discontinuance, why we are having to prove that legitimate businesses and entities exist in Jonesville, and why Waskom Post Office makes rural delivery to a few Jonesville residents who live less than a mile from the existing Jonesville Post Office 75659 ...and in a few cases within easy walking distance. I know of five such residences within less than a mile of our post office. I also know that one such home within less than a mile from our post office and that has been rendered service by Waskom Post Office is the home of two former United States Postal Service postmasters, both of whom at one time or another served as Jonesville's postmaster. Their names are Lloyd and Reba Nolan Burkhalter. They live west of and less than a mile from Jonesville Post Office. Waskom is five miles to the east of Jonesville. Why did two former Jonesville postmasters seek rural delivery from Waskom? Residents have been wondering why and theorizing about the fact that neither Lloyd nor Reba are rendering support for the continuance of Jonesville Post Office. It would seem more likely that former postmasters would normally be supportive in continuance. They were proactive when in the positions as postmasters. The change in attitude is puzzling and of great concern. I know of no circumstance or situation which would prohibit any of the Jonesville residents who live within such short distance from our post office that would keep them from being able to retrieve mail at the post office. Does USPS deliver mail by rural delivery to roadside mail boxes for the sole sake of convenience to customers when an existing post office is in such close proximity? Does USPS encourage neighboring community post offices to actively seek rural mail delivery customers beyond their jurisdiction? Would it be possible to have those few rural route mail delivery residents in Jonesville retrieve their mail from the existing post office rather than for Waskom Post Office to assume additional delivery time and cost for seemingly unnecessary delivery to another community? Our post office box patrons are asking that question. If USPS wants the majority of Jonesville residents to drive 10 miles roundtrip (from Jonesville Post Office to Waskom Post Office) rather than to have a very few rural delivery residents travel a short distance, does that seem logical or practical?

Linda, in my phone conversation with Allison Rizan on August 15, 2011. I asked her why Jonesville Post Office 75659 was being considered for discontinuance. She said there are two reasons: **decline in revenue and low workload**. Frank Richards, Manager of Post Office Operations, sent a notification letter and questionnaire to Jonesville residents dated August 17, 2011. Frank's letter stated that our post office "is being studied due to **declining office workload**"....that "revenue and/or volume this office has"has "**been in a steady decline over the past several years.....**" On August 23, 2011 an official copy of the "Invitation for Comments on the Proposal to Close the Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Rural Route Service" was placed in our post office in the locked part of the post office. Attached to the letter addressed to the customers of the Jonesville Post Office and which was signed by Frank Richards were copies of the "Jonesville Post Office Discontinuance Financial Summary" and the "Proposal to Close the Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Rural Route Service." In the opening statements of the proposal, the document states "The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: **Due to declining office workload.....The revenue and/or volume this office has (has) been in a steady decline.**" In the very next paragraph, the report states "**Revenue has seen a slight increase** over the last several years." Financial figures were then shown for 2007 through 2010 and those figures showed an **increase in revenues by 59% over the past few years**. On the letter to Victor Benavides in which Frank Richards requested authorization to conduct the investigation, Frank indicated that the rational for the study was due to "**Insufficient Customer Demand**" and "**Office Workload.**" At the community meeting on August 27, 2011, a resident asked if Jonesville's Post Office was losing revenues. Frank Richards responded without hesitation "Yes." Residents had perused the document which held his signature and immediately challenged him. He did not seem to know what the financial statement contained relative to an actual documented decline in revenue, steady decline in revenue, slight increase in revenue, or as the document showed **significant increase in revenues**. Yesterday, some Jonesville residents received letters from Frank Richards in response to questionnaire comments and in which he mentioned our post office was being studied because of "**a vacancy in a small office.**" Now which of the many reasons provided constitute the actual truth? What is the bottom line reason for our post office being studied for discontinuance? Can we rely on anything submitted by the Area Manager or the District Manager? Jonesville residents are just as concerned as I am about the confusing answers provided by area and district officials. I am even moreso concerned if the reason has anything to do with the postmaster vacancy in our post office. Why hasn't USPS tried to fill that vacancy? Whose decision was that?

Jonesville residents have serious concerns about the accuracy of official reports which were evidently utilized as the basis upon which preliminary decisions were made for recommending Jonesville Post Office for discontinuance. I think you will agree with me that there is legitimate concern when given such confusing and inaccurate content rendered in supposedly official USPS documents which were signed by the official who made the recommendation for discontinuance. Frank Richards' signature is just under and on the document page which states "**Copies of all materials upon which this**

proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Jonesville Post Office and Waskom Post Office during normal office hours." I am concerned about the basis upon which Frank Richards made his preliminary decision to recommend Jonesville Post Office for discontinuance and the content in materials available for review which do not reflect an accurate description of our community or the need for our post office. I have forwarded photos and lists and historic facts to Allison Rizan, but in consideration of the replies in the letter I received from Frank Richards yesterday, I am not confident that anything sent to the district will be read properly or utilized adequately in a fair decision about Jonesville Post Office 75659. Some replies in my letter from Frank Richards yesterday were not even related to anything mentioned or questioned such as the topic of "suspension." Our post office was not suspended. Why was an answer about suspension given. It is very obvious that "form" answers were inserted into the letters delivered to residents yesterday. Did district officials even read the comments? One must ask that when there is sufficient reason to believe an unrequested categorical answer was given to an unasked question. Surely, USPS must have a standard of care for interpreting and responding to comments other than to let unqualified personnel just pick the best possible answer from some list of approved categorical USPS statements. It would be good for you to see what the district is sending to residents. I am sure you have seen the approved answers, but possibly you have not seen how those approved answers are being inserted inappropriately as official responses from the district.

The "Discontinuance Feasibility Study Survey" on display for public review with the proposal for discontinuance has several incomplete and/or inaccurate entries about the Jonesville community which I will herein attempt to mention.

4. Community Information.

e. Are there special historic events related to the community? -

USPS preparer listed the 165th anniversary of T. C. Lindsey & Company as the only such historic event related to Jonesville. There are other historic events related to Jonesville and there are historic sites in Jonesville:

- 165th anniversary of USPS Post Office in Jonesville
- Pre-Civil War railroad was constructed from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville. A Texas Historical Site marker is in Jonesville near the railroad bed.
- Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home and Texas State Historic Landmark in Jonesville
- Locust Grove Plantation Home and Texas State Historic Landmark in Jonesville
- Concord Cemetery and Texas State Historic Cemetery in Jonesville
- Old Border Church Cemetery and Texas State Historic Cemetery in Jonesville
- Last bale of cotton baled in Harrison County Texas on display at T. C. Lindsey & Company. Cotton Gin is a Harrison County Historic Site
- Current Archeological Study by Texas and Louisiana concerning a large Caddo Indian Village in Jonesville.

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f. Describe the geographic and economic makeup of the community.

USPS preparer stated 50% retirees and 50% commuters. If USPS needed to know a more definitive answer rather than to extract one from imagination, why did USPS not ask residents on the questionnaire when given the opportunity? Current and complete Census Bureau information from 2010 census for rural areas will not be available until 2012 or later. Unfortunately, if that census survey was distributed on the basis of zip code alone rather than geographical location of what has been known as Jonesville for 164 years, some of our true Jonesville residents with rural route delivery from Waskom would not be reported under the proper community.

h. Provide the names of religious institutions in the service area.

- Old Border Baptist Church on Concord Road in Jonesville
- Bellview Road Baptist Church on Bellview Road in Jonesville

i. Provide the names of organizations in the service area, including nonprofit organizations. Only The Jonesville Foundation was listed. There are others.

- The Jonesville Museum (note that the museum building was destroyed in 2010 tornado)
- The Ark and Dove Foundation
- Concord Cemetery Association

j. Provide the names of businesses including small and home-based businesses.

Only T. C. Lindsey & Company was listed. As far as walk-in store front businesses, the store and post office are the only ones where customers could go inside and purchase items. There are other businesses which offer service to the area and which also are postal patrons. There are several small home-based businesses, too. I will attach a separate sheet with a listing of the ones which have identified themselves as business interests. The attached list may not reflect all home-based businesses or self-employed residents.

NEPA Checklist. To the best of your knowledge, does this closing impact any of the following items? Allison Rizan and Frank Richards both signed this form.

-Historic, cultural or archeological resources - USPS responded "NO," but the modern postal service facility was constructed in an area being studied by the Texas State Historical Commission for possible inclusion in the National Park Service Register as a National Historic District and new buildings disqualify such designations in most situations. The answer should have been "YES."

-Adverse impact to natural resources - USPS responded "NO." but the construction of that facility specifically for use by the USPS removed natural vegetation which will be difficult to restore as long as the area is covered with concrete parking lot and a vacant building. That area used to be in natural vegetation. While the building is used as a post office, environmental impact would not take precedence over postal service usage. If the post office is discontinued, the concrete and building would be a significant environmental impact to land owners other than the lessor.

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and prepare an accurate report before using that faulty information as basis for making a recommendation as important as discontinuance.. It would be even sadder, if this faulty USPS practice within your jurisdiction were allowed to continue without rectification and if Jonesville Post Office 75659 or any other small rural post office is sacrificed at the hands of either incompetence and/or inadequate research. I truly believe that you have been unaware of the many discrepancies and faulty entries on the very important reports upon which decisions have been made, will be made, and most likely should not have been made regarding Jonesville Post Office. It is not your fault that errors have been made prior to your knowledge of those errors, but you have now received a concerned citizen's report about such inadequacies as evidenced throughout the discontinuance process relative to Jonesville's post office. Hopefully, you will receive the content in this letter as constructive criticism and as an honest plea for the system to be corrected before a small rural community is victimized and a much needed post office is lost forever. It must have been easy to identify small rural post offices as possible targets for closure, but with Congress mandating protection for small rural post offices, the United States Postal Service should make every effort to properly evaluate, consider, and decide in favor of continuance of those small rural post offices which have experienced increases in revenue in spite of nationwide decline and which can have operating hours reduced to improve workload efficiency. Our small rural post office has achieved when most have declined. Keep Jonesville Post Office 75659 alive.

Linda, we have a significant documentation file relative to the proposed possible discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office 75659. A copy of this letter will be put in that file as have the many other letters sent to USPS officials and the very few responses received from USPS. The community meeting on August 27th was attended by County Judge, County Commissioner, Retired County Judge, and a representative from U. S. Representative Louie Gohmert's office in addition to many citizens, residents, and businesses who oppose discontinuance and who strongly support our community and post office. We had a videographer record the session. We had another individual record the full audio of the meeting. We had another resident record video/audio of the session. Local television station sent a representative to record and film the entire community meeting. We have already started compiling facts and data relative to an appeal should the discontinuance process continue. We have already been in contact with the Postmaster General and the Postal Regulatory Commission. It would be cost effective if the discontinuance process were stopped now rather than to proceed with such questionable actions on the part of area and district officials who did not adequately conduct research and who did not properly document essential information necessary for establishing basis upon which a truthful and fair decision could be made. If you have questions about any aspect of the content in this letter, please contact me. If you have not reviewed the official USPS proposal and record on display in Jonesville Post Office, perhaps you should. If you have not reviewed the financial records of our Jonesville Post Office, please do. If ever there was a time for reconsideration, it is now. My request is even more urgent because our area is suffering from record breaking drought and wildfires which have threatened and are threatening this wide spread community of Jonesville. Residents are stressed. This community is stressed. Please continue Jonesville Post Office 75659 without delay. We will continue showing support

Financial Statement - The financial statement shows expenses amounting to \$32,269 per year. The revenue produced in 2010 was \$25,120. As of a few days ago, there were 127 post office boxes rented in Jonesville. Are post office box rental fees included in revenues? In consideration of the difference between revenues reported in 2010 and expenses listed per year on the financial statement, there would be a \$7,149 difference/loss per year should the post office be continued without change in operation hours, increase of PO box rental fees, or accepting a lower lease amount offer. If Jonesville Post Office were continued, if hours of operation were reduced, if Saturday service was eliminated, and if the lease rental offer for a reduction of the lease to \$3600 per year was accepted and applied immediately to the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 years, the post office in Jonesville could be self-sustaining. If post office box rental fees were increased in addition to reduction of hours of operation, elimination of Saturday service, and acceptance of the reduced lease fee offer, Jonesville Post Office would certainly be self-sufficient. I think this financial possibility in a small rural post office that is continued would far outweigh the negative impacts on the community and the negative impact on the USPS should our post office be discontinued. If the post office is discontinued, USPS will have to pay the original lease fee for the next four upcoming years even though the facility would be vacant. The four year cost for no service would be a \$29,376 loss for the post office. I did not find any documentation of the costs/savings USPS would realize relative to delivery of mail to our post office versus delivery of mail to 127 other locations. The financial statement provided to the Jonesville public for review showed a proposed savings of \$246,701 over 10 years or \$24,670 per year if the post office is discontinued, but the person who prepared the statement did not include the lease rental fee which would by contract law have to be paid until the contract expired. The real savings report would have to consider the losses associated with continual rent payment through 2015. However, if the post office is continued, the Jonesville Post Office could in essence be self-sustaining with little or no expense to USPS. Which scenario is better financially?

I would think anyone interested in maintaining the integrity of the United States Postal Service would have to agree that continuance of the Jonesville Post Office would be of less impact to all concerned parties. **When will Jonesville residents have access and opportunity to review full disclosure of the financial impacts of the proposed discontinuance vs. continuance and the complete report which shows true forecasted savings for each alternative mail delivery option given to our community?**

My sincere wish is for USPS to get back on its feet financially. I cannot in good conscience ignore the errors made by USPS officials who had responsibility and authority for adequately investigating and evaluating the Jonesville Post Office and the Jonesville community prior to making a recommendation for discontinuance. Furthermore, It is very difficult to completely trust anything said or written by the Area Manager or the District Official who approved the recommendation for discontinuance study. The documents on display for public view contain the statement that the proposal for discontinuance was based on the contents in the document on display, and that document is lacking true facts. The United States Postal Service has served this country well. It is very sad that USPS officials failed to properly assess a community

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for our post office, our small rural post office which shows strength and increases in revenue even while USPS suffers decline. We would like your support for continuance.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O Bos 129
Jonesville TX 75659
leliabwb@shreve.net
903 687-3403

Attachment: List of Business Interest in Jonesville

bplist00◆e_WebMainResource_WebSubresources_WebSubframeArchives◆
_WebResourceData_WebResourceFrameName_WebResourceMIMETType_WebResourceTextEncodingName^WebResourceURLO◆

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USPS Announce Public Meetings for Proposed Post Office Closings In 3 States

August 28, 2011 by L_u

Filed under: [post office closings](#), [postal](#), [postal news](#), [press releases](#), [usps](#)

The following is a combination of press releases from USPS announcing scheduled public meetings for proposed post office closings in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

From USPS:

A review of business activities of the Post Office at this location revealed that the office workload has declined. This reduced workload suggests the maintenance of an independent Post Office here may no longer be warranted.

As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes.

The Postal Service announced July 26 that it will be taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of approximately 3,700 retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation.

"Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

For communities currently without a postal retail office and for communities affected by these retail optimization efforts, the Postal Service introduced the Village Post Office as a potential replacement option. Village Post Offices would be operated by local businesses, such as pharmacies, grocery stores and other appropriate retailers, and would offer popular postal products and services such as stamps and flat-rate packaging.

"By working with third-party retailers, we're creating easier, more convenient access to our products and services when and where our customers want them," Donahoe said. "The Village Post Office will offer another way for us to meet our customers' needs."

With 32,000 postal retail offices and more than 70,000 third-party retailers — Approved Postal Providers — selling postage stamps and providing expanded access to other postal products and services, customers today have about 100,000 locations across the nation where they can do business with the Postal Service.

"The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner and more competitive and it will continue to drive commerce, serve communities and deliver value," Donahoe added.

The list of offices being studied and additional information can be found at <http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/welcome.htm>.

The U.S. Postal Service will hold a public meeting to discuss its proposal to make possible changes in the way postal services are provided in the following post offices:

ARKANSAS

ALLEENE, AR —Aug 30, at 5:30 pm, at the Alleene Community Center, 151 Little River 134.

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MENIFEE, AR –Aug. 30 at 5:30 pm, Meniffee City Hall, 68 N Mustang St.
 BEIRNE, AR –Aug 31, at 5:30 pm, Beime Baptist Church, 24 Beime Mill Lp.
 JERUSALEM, AR –Sept. 1, at 5:30 pm, Jerusalem Community Bldg., 23 School House Rd.
 GREGORY, AR –The U.S. Postal Service held a public meeting in Gregory August 24.

<http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/states/arkansas.htm>

Any customer who wishes to submit comments in writing about this issue can send it to:
 Manager Consumer & Industry Affairs
 USPS Arkansas District
 420 Natural Resources Dr
 Little Rock, AR 72205-9631

Oklahoma

ADAMS, OK –Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Hardesty School Auditorium, 321 SW 5th, Hardesty OK
 HARDESTY, OK –Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Hardesty School Auditorium, 321 SW 5th, Hardesty OK

<http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/states/oklahoma.htm>

Anyone who wishes to submit comments in writing can send them to:

Manager, Consumer & Industry Contact
 USPS Fort Worth District
 4600 Mark IV Parkway
 Fort Worth, TX 76161-9631

West Virginia -

Western PA District Manager Charles P. McCreadie, Senior Plant Manager Jeffrey L. Bergen, and Western PA District operations staff will give an overview and listen to community input regarding a proposal to move remaining mail processing operations from the Wheeling WV Post Office into the Pittsburgh Processing and Distribution Center on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (The two-hour meeting will end promptly at 9 p.m.) at
 Wheeling Park High School Auditorium
 1976 Park View Road
 Wheeling, WV 26003

Texas

Customers will have an opportunity to meet with a Postal Service representative to discuss alternatives

BYNUM, TX – Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Bynum ISD Cafeteria, 704 Toliver.
 LEESVILLE, TX –Aug 30 at 6 p.m., at the Encouraging Word Church, 51 Country Rd. 121, in Leesville.
 ENERGY, TX –Aug. 30, at 6:20 pm, at the Energy Community Center, FM 2486/1702..
 BARSTOW, TX – Aug. 30, at 6 p.m., at the Community Center, 100 Concho.
 CONCEPCION, TX – Aug 31, at 5 p.m., at the Concepcion Post Office, 2239 FM 716.
 IRENE, TX – Aug 31, at 6:30 p.m., at the Irene Community Center, 119 First Street.
 LA SALLE, TX – Aug 31, at 6 p.m., at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 4562 Country Rd
 COYANOSA, TX –Aug 31, at 6 p.m., at the Post Office, 2550 Hwy 1776, Coyanosa TX 79730.
 FORSAN, TX –Sept. 1, at 6 p.m., at the Forsan Baptist Church, 201 W Main..
 ENCINO, TX – Sept 1, at 5 p.m., at the Encino Post Office, 291 S Business Highway 281
 AQUILLA, TX –Sept. 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Aquilla ISD Cafeteria, 404 N Richards.
 LA WARD, TX –Sept. 1, at 6 p.m., at the La Ward Fire Department, 14086 State Highway 172.
 DELMITA, TX –Sept. 2, at 5 p.m., at the Delmita Post Office, 124 Delmita Rd.
 KNOTT, TX – Sept. 2, at 6 p.m., at the Farmers Coop, 13100 N CR 9, in Knott.
 GRANDFALLS, TX – Sept 7, at 6 p.m., at the Library, 209 Ave D, Grandfalls, TX.
 FREDONIA, TX –Sept 10, at 2 p.m., at the Fredonia Scalehouse Café, 11020 RR 1222.

Anyone who wishes to submit comments in writing can send them to:

Manager Consumer & Industry Affairs
 USPS Rio Grande District
 1 Post Office Dr
 San Antonio, TX 78284-9631

USPS held public meetings for the following post offices in Texas earlier this month

Jonesville 75659-Aug. 27
 Kildare 75562- Aug. 27
 Marietta 75566 – Aug. 27
 Brandon 76628- Aug. 25
 Burlington 76519 -Aug. 26
 Fowlerton 78021- Aug. 22
 Hobson 78117- Aug. 23
 Hochheim 77967- Aug. 24
 Christine 78012- Aug. 16
 Fannin 77960- Aug. 17,
 Calliham 78007 – Aug. 15

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EG 501671023 US



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

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Customer Copy

Label 11-B, March 2004

Post Office To Addressee

ORIGIN (POSTAL SERVICE USE ONLY)			
PO ZIP Code 75659	Day of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Next <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2nd <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Out Day	Postage \$ 18.30	
Date Accepted 9/12/11	Scheduled Date of Delivery Month 9 Day 19	Return Receipt Fee \$	
Mo. Day Year 9 12 11	Scheduled Time of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Noon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 PM	COD Fee \$	Insurance Fee \$
Time Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM	Military <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Day <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Day	Total Postage & Fees \$ 18.30	
Flat Rate <input type="checkbox"/> or Weight 2 lbs. 2 ozs.	Int'l Alpha Country Code	Acceptance Emp. Initials TG	

FROM: (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE ()

Linda Vaughan
P.O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659

DELIVERY (POSTAL USE ONLY)

Delivery Attempt	Time	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day			
Delivery Attempt	Time	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day			
Delivery Date	Time	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day			

CUSTOMER USE ONLY

PAYMENT BY ACCOUNT
Express Mail Corporate Acct. No.☐ WAIVER OF SIGNATURE (Domestic Mail Only)
Additional merchandise insurance is void if customer requests waiver of signature.
I wish delivery to be made without obtaining signature of addressee or addressee's agent (if delivery employee judges that article can be left in secure location) and I authorize that delivery employee's signature constitutes valid proof of delivery.Federal Agency Acct. No. or
Postal Service Acct. No.

NO DELIVERY

☐ Weekend☐ Holiday

Mailer Signature

TO: (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE ()

Linda T. With VP
Director of Area Operations
P.O.
P.O. Box 22448
Dallas TX 75222

ZIP + 4 (U.S. ADDRESSES ONLY. DO NOT USE FOR FOREIGN POSTAL CODES)

75222 + 47412

FOR INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS, WRITE COUNTRY NAME BELOW.

FOR PICKUP OR TRACKING

Visit www.usps.com

Call 1-800-222-1811



September 14, 2011

Ref 5.15

Linda,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Allison Rizan dated September 14, 2011 in response to a letter received from her on September 13th. I have attached a copy of her letter to me so that you have full disclosure and understanding. I have also attached a copy of the letter I received from Frank Richards which was an official reply to my responses on the USPS community questionnaire. It is very interesting that he mentioned "vacancy in a small post office" when he had not previously brought up that rationale in discussions relative to reasons why Jonesville Post Office 75659 was being considered for discontinuance. I have supplied copies of other communications provided by Frank Richards which reflect contradictory revenue statements and conflicting rationale for discontinuance.

I am truly concerned about the public view of the United States Postal Service. Residents in Jonesville are disheartened, confused, upset by inappropriate information about Jonesville having been submitted by Area Manager Frank Richards, and concerned about the potential loss of a much needed rural post office....one which has shown an increase in revenue of 59 % over the past few years, an increase in post office box rentals this year from 111 to 127, community support for reduction in the daily hours of operation, community support for elimination of Saturday service, and a community which is aware that the lessor made a significant offer to reduce the lease rental fee by fifty percent on August 12, 2011. Those factors could conceivably make Jonesville Post Office 75659 a self-sustaining post office and one which serves a very wide spread rural community which is within the purposes supported by Rule 39.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed.D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

Allison Rizan
CSA-OPS
Dallas District
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75009-9631

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Dear Allison,

In response to your letter which I received on the morning of September 13, 2011, I think you must be somewhat confused for I have never written a letter to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent reduction of the Jonesville Post Office nor have I ever spoken to Mr. Bill McMurry regarding the rent of the Jonesville Post Office. Furthermore, I have never negotiated lease rental reduction for any post office throughout my entire lifetime. You have evidently confused me with someone else.

While I was provided a copy of a letter sent on August 22, 2011 to a Mr. Bill McMurry, the copy was provided for my documentation file relative the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659 and its unfortunate recommendation/proposal for discontinuance. On September 12, 2011, a person named John Logan called and represented himself as the real estate agent for the United States Postal Service. I was not at home at the time because I was with my timber consultant assessing damage to my family's timber property which was destroyed in a wildfire here in Harrison County on September 11, 2011. When I returned home, I retrieved a message from Mr. Logan and returned his call. He wanted to discuss renegotiating the lease rental fee reduction offer which I had made, but which I made clear to him that I had not made and that he had contacted the incorrect person. He stated that he had my name and wanted to confirm the accuracy of the terms in the contract as written. I assured him that he had the incorrect person and that I was not the lessor. I told him that The Jonesville Museum was lessor of the building which houses Jonesville Post Office 75659.

I further advised him that in a letter dated September 2, 2011 from Linda J. Welch, Vice President, Southwest Area Operations of the United States Postal Service, I had been advised that "There are two reasons the USPS real estate specialist did not agree to renegotiate the lease terms: (1) The current term does not expire until 2015 and we are still working on leases for 2011 to 2013, and, (2) Because this facility is identified on the Post Office discontinuance study list, until all the studies have been completed we are very careful not to enter into a new lease contract." Mr. Logan indicated that his negotiation had nothing to do with what Linda Welch had written to me, that it was totally unrelated, and that he wanted to make arrangements to accept the offer so that USPS would not be shown to lose money by not accepting an offer too good to not accept. He asked for the name of the person to contact, and I was somewhat shocked that if he had a copy of the written confirmation of the offer from The Jonesville Museum manager that he would not have seen the manager's name on the signature line on the copy he had. I told him he needed to contact Kim Vaughan Scrivener. He wanted her number, but I had just walked into my house from seeing the devastation created by wildfire which had destroyed a significantly large tract of timber belonging to me and my

family. I told him that I would have to find the number. I also had to contact family members about the timber loss and about our other tract which was most likely lost but which the timber consultant and I could not access due to the fire still burning. I told Mr. Logan that I would find Kim Vaughan Scrivener's phone number and call her about it. I did call Kim and gave her the message.

Allison, how could the district office not know the name of the lessor or to whom such a call should be made? That truly concerns me and should be of concern to those who serve in supervisory positions within USPS. I believe the United States Postal Service has had a contractual relationship with The Jonesville Museum for over twenty years, has paid lease rental fees for that long, has sent lease rental fees to Kim Vaughan Scrivener as manager of The Jonesville Museum for that long, evidently had a phone call and offer from Kim Vaughan Scrivener on August 12, 2011, and received a letter dated August 22, 2011 which contained a written restatement of the verbal offer for the reduction of rent by fifty percent. I am not a member, trustee, representative, agent, or any other type of decision maker for The Jonesville Museum nor am I the lessor. Hopefully, Mr. Logan advised you of this fact. Your letter stated that "the Real Estate Department will notify you when they have made their decision."

I hope that fact gathering has proceeded properly, that truthful facts have now been acknowledged and documented for the purposes of being considered rather than the misinformation and various errors in the community description provided and signed by Area Manager Frank Richards in the official document on display in the Jonesville Post Office, and that district officials will realize the worth of Jonesville Post Office 75659 being continued rather than discontinued. This very necessary defense of Jonesville Post Office and the rebuttal required to assert the truth is very time consuming, very costly, and very stressful for a community which is also suffering wildfires and continued drought conditions which make the fire danger even more extreme.

If the district has its mind made up that Jonesville's post office will be discontinued, why put us through so much additional stress? Jonesville residents and businesses need the post office. Can USPS honestly state that there would be no adverse impact on the businesses in Jonesville? The most recent letter from Frank Richards in response to comments submitted on the questionnaire stated that "Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely effected." Allison, Jonesville Post Office 75659 was not suspended. Why in the world would such an inappropriate answer be given to any resident who made comments on a questionnaire provided by USPS? Frank's letter to me dated September 9, 2011 mentioned "suspension" more than once. If letters were sent to other Jonesville residents and businesses with content similar to what was in mine, the United States Postal Service and the District should be embarrassed. I do understand how stressful your job must be in ascertaining true facts and considerations, but official USPS responses which reference "since suspension of service" when service has not been suspended are inappropriate. I am embarrassed for the United States Postal Service because such action on the part of District officials

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is disgraceful and demeaning to USPS which formerly was highly respected and revered. Perhaps it was a mistake in judgment on the part of someone given the task to assign an answer/statement to a resident's question or comment, but it does not offer any relative degree of support for citizen and community respect for the United States Postal Service. The United States Postal Service is having a difficult time as it is without being so misrepresented by inappropriate responses and actions.

I am certain that it must be very difficult on you as District Discontinuance Coordinator, but perhaps you have gained experience and knowledge throughout this process which will make you a more sensitive and responsive evaluator. Evaluation is not an easy task. Evaluation requires thorough fact finding, complete data gathering, very precise interpretation of facts and data, complete consideration of all factors, documentation, and appropriate reporting. Good luck with the remainder of the discontinuance process. If you need additional supportive information about Jonesville or our Jonesville community, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

cc. Deborah Eberra
Linda J. Welch

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P 5

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
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<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <p><i>LINDA J. WELCH</i> <i>UP. S.W. AREA</i> <i>PO Box 224748</i> <i>Dallas TX 75222-4748</i></p>	<p>B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery</p> <p><i>Linda Welch</i> <i>9-16-11</i></p>
<p>2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)</p> <p><i>7007 2560 0000 7310 1966</i></p>	<p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below; <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>3. Service Type</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail <input type="checkbox"/> C.O.D.</p>	
<p>4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	
<p>PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540</p>	

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<p>PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions</p>	

August 16, 2011

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P1

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe, Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D. C. 20260-3100

Honorable Mr. Donahoe,

Do not allow the Dallas District of the United States Postal Service to discontinue the 164 year old Jonesville, Texas 75659 United States Post Office. The Jonesville Post Office has been serving the Jonesville area and Harrison County since 1847. Jonesville's post office provided postal service before Elysian Fields, Texas, before Waskom, Texas, before Karnack, Texas, and before Scottsville, Texas. As a small rural community, we depend on our post office for money orders, secure postal box rentals, regular postal service, and help from our postal attendant. We do not have a fully salaried postmaster. Our postal clerk is paid on an hourly basis with no benefits typical of most postal employees or postmasters.

Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator, has set up a community meeting which is to be held at our small post office on August 27, 2011 at 2:30 pm.....one of the hottest months in the year and at one of the hottest times of the day. Mr. Donahoe, if the United States Postal Service wishes to provide a community meeting for residents to provide input about the importance of our post office to daily life in Jonesville and to express concerns about the negative impacts such potential closure could have on our community, then why would you permit such a meeting to be held with such short notice and at such a contraindicated time for healthy participation by elderly residents? I have not yet received notification of the meeting, but in a phone conversation with Allison Rizan on Monday, August 15th, she told me that she was sending our notice that day. Perhaps it will arrive today. The reason I called her was to offer another time at our country store which is next door for the meeting and to suggest that the meeting be held in the middle of September when daytime temperatures were not over 100 degrees in the afternoon. Yesterday, the temperature in Jonesville at 2:30 pm was 109 degrees. Is that acceptable to you for hosting a meeting of residents for the purposes of achieving any kind of positive experience?

I asked Allison Rizan why our 164 year old rural post office was being considered for closure. She stated that there were two reasons and only two reasons. She stated that 1) low revenue and 2) low work load contact hours were the reasons our post office was put on the list for possible closure. As you should already know, current law prohibits the United States Postal Service from closing or consolidating a post office solely because the individual post office may have expenses that exceed revenue. Closing Jonesville Post Office 75659 will have an adverse impact on our community and my family's 164 year old general store, T. C. Lindsey & Company. My Aunt Emma Vaughan was postmaster in Jonesville until she retired. Throughout her service to the United States Postal Service and this community, the Jonesville Post Office was located inside my family's country store. When my aunt retired, the replacement postmaster, Reba

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Nolan (now Reba Nolan Burkhalter), pushed for more space and expressed needs for a more modern facility. In answer to the request, my Vaughan family and the Smith family granted permission for a new post office to be constructed on land adjacent to our store. My aunt's son, Sammy Vaughan, funded construction of a postal service specific facility and large concrete parking area on those lands. Some of the Vaughan family donated their interests in the land. All of the Smith family heirs donated their interests. My father, Thomas Worth Vaughan, did not legally donate his interests and his heirs still own their undivided interests in the land upon which the post office building and postal service parking lot are located. Currently, that land is owned by The Jonesville Museum and my family. The Jonesville Museum has received lease rental payments from the USPS, but my family has never pursued any compensation because my father was happy to allow his land to be used for such important community service. Last week, Kim Vaughan Scrivener, manager of The Jonesville Museum, called the USPS lease rental agent and offered to greatly reduce the lease fee imposed on the USPS in order to help keep the post office in Jonesville. The USPS lease rental agent did not seem interested and stated that a reduction in lease fees would not help our situation because the main financial losses of the USPS nationwide were as a result of salaries and benefits of postmasters and supervisory employees. **IF JONESVILLE'S POST OFFICE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR CLOSURE DUE TO REVENUE, THEN WHY WOULD THE USPS NOT HAPPILY ACCEPT A REDUCTION IN LEASE FEES?** The offer my cousin Kim Scrivener made still stands.

If low revenue and low work load contact hours are the only two problems at our Jonesville Post Office, why not reduce the hours of operation, stop Saturday counter service at our Post Office, and accept the offer to pay a reduced lease rental fee? There is something seriously wrong with the United States Postal Service if district offices choose to close historically significant small rural post offices. My community wants to maintain its Jonesville, Texas 75659 identity. If you permit your officials to close our post office, our community will suffer. We will lose our identity and our strong heritage from which this great country emerged will be lost forever. We do not want to lose our mailing address Jonesville, Texas 75659. We will not accept a Village Post Office or a Cluster mail box station. We already have a post office building designed and constructed for postal service. Why should my family and The Jonesville Museum have to suffer the costs for removal of a facility which was graciously built to USPS specifications and for which Kim Scrivener offered to reduce the lease amount and for which my family has never been paid one cent.

Mr. Donahoe, there are multiple reasons why you should instruct your District office to discontinue the consideration of closing Jonesville Post Office 75659. Our post office just might be self-sustaining if your lease rental agent were to accept a lower least amount and if hours of operation were reduced. We need our post office. We do not want to be consolidated with another community. We do not want to lose our 75659 identity and our current addresses. Please save our Jonesville Post Office and continue to provide service to the very community that helped the USPS when in need. If you allow our post office to be discontinued, we will suffer. Our community will suffer. Our identity will be lost at the hands of your designated officials who have failed to consider

the Congressional mandate for providing service to small rural communities which may or may not be self-sustained financially.

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P3

I have enclosed information pertaining to the significance of Jonesville and our post office. You are in a position to do what is right. Our Jonesville Post Office has not caused the financial difficulties of the United States Postal Service. Please notify the Dallas District Office to stop the discontinuance procedures affiliated with our post office. They have been offered reduced lease fees and they may reduce hours of operation without closing a 164 year old Harrison County United States Post Office in Jonesville, Texas 75659.

I know you must be very busy, but we need you to be strong in preserving Jonesville, Texas and our post office.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

c. President Barack Obama
U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
U. S. Senator John Cornyn
U. S. Representative Louie Gohmert
Texas Governor Rick Perry

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4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) ☐ Yes

Ref's. 15
p4

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PS Form 3800, August 2006

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